



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – CRAFTS

Organisation/Venue: North Lands Creative Glass

Title of Event: A series of 3 day-long workshops for Secondary Schools

Type of Event: (e.g. exhibition/workshop/screening/lecture) Practical Workshop

Date of Visit: 13 November 2006 OS

**Overall Rating** (Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – i.e. the particular strengths and weaknesses.)

**Overall Rating 4** – The workshops are ambitious, well designed and led by skilled professional artists. Of particular note is the growing relationship with the schools and in particular with the art teachers. The workshops offered an opportunity for pupils and their teachers to work together on a project spread over several days and to develop a range of skills and creative thinking processes that would not be possible within the school environment. There was a high level of support and encouragement for participants.

North Lands would benefit greatly from investment to develop a dedicated Educational studio which would allow a greater flexibility. Additional administrative support to manage the workshop programme would also be beneficial.

Name: CAROL DUNBAR

Date: 24/01/06 OS

Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named below. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated at the end of the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and to the management of the venue, if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report may be made available to Scottish Arts Council Officers, Council and Committee members, and specialist advisors as appropriate. It will be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Council to report on the overall performance of its Core Funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

- 1-Very Poor – standard falls well below what is acceptable.
- 2-Poor – not attaining acceptable standards of conception or presentation.
- 3-Competent – routine rather than especially interesting.
- 4-Good – well conceived and executed
- 5-Excellent – conceived and executed to a high standard.

## 1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, taking account of the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Vision and imagination	5	The workshop was ambitious in its intention, and given the nature of the complexities of the techniques employed pushed and challenged the students in a positive and constructive way.
Clarity of Communication	4	The intention was well established at the workshop, though the late start meant that at times explanations were rushed. Tutors provided excellent support, advice and encouragement.

## 2. Strengths and Weaknesses

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the event, with reference to the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Artist's Work – quality of ideas, skills in execution, use of materials	4	The workshop was well planned, the tutors experienced in their craft and enthusiastic in their delivery. The tutors brought a range of skills and experiences to the workshop
Curatorial Vision/Selection – also indicate if the event has originated from the exhibiting organisation, artist-led, commissioned, part of a festival	4	The workshop was part of a series organised by Northlands Creative Glass for senior pupils in schools across the Caithness and Sutherland region and led by practising glass artists,
Standards of Presentation – use of equipment, space and overall arrangement	3	There was sufficient equipment available and of a professional standard. Space was a little tight in main studio. There was good tutor/student ratio.
Foot Traffic – number of visitors/ participants at time of visit	4	The series of workshops were well subscribed with teachers who had been on previous workshops returning with new groups.
Audience Reaction – time spent, feedback, interest and participation	4	Both students and teachers were very positive about their experience. Teachers who had attended previous workshops were beginning to develop an understanding of what the students could anticipate achieving on the class and could prepare them accordingly.

Events Available/ Groups Targeted <sup>1</sup> – appropriateness of event for the audience	4	This workshop was for secondary pupils and their art teachers. The content was pitched at a suitable level for age group
---	---	--

## 2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations.

Criteria	Rating	Comment and key reasons for rating
Suitability of the venue for the event	3/4	Studio was well equipped and well laid out for workshop activity – the studio is not a dedicated education space and this put some restrictions on it. At times the studio and social areas were cold
Information/interpretive material at venue <sup>2</sup>		N/A
Publicity/ pre-publicity <sup>3</sup>	3	Tutors are responsible for organisation and administration of the workshops and would benefit from additional administrative support. The information sent out to schools could have been better prepared and clearer in its intention
Ease of booking and payment		N/A
Location of venue	4	The studio is within reasonable distance of public transport and located in a sympathetic environment.
External signage and signposting	3	I did have to ask directions but Studio did have adequate external signage once it was visible.
Internal directional signage	3	Areas are clearer signed with designated use
Access and provision for disabled people	3	This might prove problematic - benches were at standing height – A dedicated education room would solve this
Timing of the event	3	Early start on Sunday morning and participants having some distance to travel in icy conditions was problematic
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g., box office, front of house and bar/catering)		N/A
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council funding <sup>4</sup>	2	While SAC was mentioned by name in material for schools the logo was not used

<sup>1</sup> Whether the event included workshops, artist's talks and/or discussion group, targeted at pre-school/primary/secondary/tertiary students, >18, >80 etc.

<sup>2</sup> These include programmes, displays etc., including the range, quality and clarity.

<sup>3</sup> Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the range, content, and when and where available. Be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised, commenting on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information

<sup>4</sup> The following is an extract from the Scottish Arts Council's conditions of grant for funded organisations:

"The company should acknowledge Scottish Arts Council funding in press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes, posters, notices display, exhibition materials, websites and advertising).