



**Artistic Evaluation – Visual Arts**

**Organisation/Venue:** Taigh Chearsabhagh

**Title of Event:** Array - A showcase of contemporary jewellery from Scotland

**Type of Event:** (eg exhibition/workshop/screening/lecture) **Exhibition**

**Date of Visit:** 18 February 2004

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 a Council Officer 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 it 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 organisation 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:**

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

**This form is available electronically. Please word process/type response.**

**Assessment will depend of nature of event/exhibition reviewed but we anticipate it should take between 30 - 45 minutes to fill this form in.**

## 1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the **artistic quality** of the event

### 1.1 Vision and Imagination:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The exhibition took place as part of the Gallery's ongoing Crafts series. The exhibition comprised the work of three Scottish makers, who have recently graduated from art school - Beth Legg, Sarah Keay and Karin Muhler.
Poor		
Competent		The starting point for selection of the work in the exhibition was inspiration from natural and organic forms and work which walked the fine line between sculpture and body adornment.  Most of the work was for sale.
Good		
Excellent	x	

### 1.2 Clarity of Communication:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		All three artists were examining a relationship with nature in their work. Karin was taking the use of paper back to its 'memory' of wood. Sarah was exploring the colourful alien world of the oceans and sea creatures. Beth was working alongside nature to explore the natural processes of mark making, echoing the movements of grasses, tides and birds as a reflection of natural patterns. All the artists incorporated found objects into their work and used non-traditional art materials, often alongside precious and semi-precious materials, interestingly juxtaposed.
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

You are also asked to assess the **strengths and weaknesses** of the event with specific reference to the following:

### 1.3 Artist's Work - please include:

- quality of ideas
- skills in execution
- have you seen the work of this artist/these artists before (particularly in relation to new work, or second productions)

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

The artists were all working with very interesting ideas in relation to the environment and organic forms as a source of inspiration and the quality of these ideas was very high. The work was without exception beautifully executed and Karin and Ruth in particular had undergone an interesting process of creation. Sarah was clearly skilled in sourcing found objects for her work which were evocative of childhood and her process of french knitting with semi precious materials is surely unique. All the artists used a wide range of found materials and integrated these seamlessly with more 'traditional' jewellery materials.

1.4 Curatorial Vision/Selection:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

The exhibition was curated by the Arts Officer Andy MacKinnon. The curatorial starting point was clearly articulated (as mentioned in section 1) and this was reflected in the selection of artists and the work displayed. The work was highly complementary and hung together extremely coherently as an exhibition. As mentioned above, this is part of a series of crafts exhibitions and was therefore seen in the context of an ongoing commitment to the display and development of Scottish crafts.

Please also indicate, as far as you are aware, if the event:

- has been originated by the exhibiting organisation
- hired  a collaboration
- part of a festival  artist led

(Please tick above as appropriate)

1.5 Standards of presentation – please include:

- use of equipment
- use of space
- overall layout/hang

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good	x	
Excellent		

The exhibition was imaginatively presented. The walls of the gallery at TC are of the original stone rather than the usual 'smooth white box' gallery setting. Therefore, the work was presented on a series of wires weighted with locally made fishing weights. This mode of presentation did not detract from the work, in fact, it added an extra dimension. The rough stone walls complemented the art works (although Beth's work was slightly overwhelmed by them). There were also two display cases containing the work of Karin and Ruth. On the whole, standards of presentation were very high. A video and monitor were used to show the artist interviews and these were of high quality and in good working order.

1.6 Please indicate the range, quantity, clarity, tone and level of Interpretative information/material provided at the venue:

- wall panels
- labels
- catalogue
- leaflets
- artists CVs

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		Interpretation was very good. The work was clearly labelled. Good quality postcards had been produced, showing the work of each of the artists, with contact details on the back. There was a very informative wall panel, with pertinent background information, well designed and produced. There was a well made video containing interviews with Karin and Ruth, which gave very interesting information about the process of creation. Sarah was visiting the Gallery at the time of my visit and her interview would be added to this and would travel with the exhibition to An Tobar.
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

1.7 Please indicate the number of visitors/participants at the time of your visit:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		I visited the exhibition twice and each time there was at least one other person in the Gallery.
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	
Excellent		

1.8 Please indicate the audience reaction – to include:

- time spent
- interest
- activity
- visitors' book comments

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		Visitors spent time with the work and were clearly interested in it. There was a visitors' book, which had some positive comments. Some of the comments included those from children who had visited as part of a workshop. Informal discussion with gallery staff showed that the work had been well received.
Poor		
Competent		
Good	X	

Excellent		
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1.9 Please indicate how appropriate you think the work was for the audience:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>Taigh Chearsabhagh contains two galleries, a museum, an arts workshop, a shop and a café. It is located near the ferry terminus from Skye and is a main entry point to the Western Isles. Therefore it attracts both a local and tourist audience for a wide range of purposes (including the fact that it is the local post office). TC is a model of good practice in the way it integrates high quality arts provision seamlessly into a rural community setting.</p> <p>This exhibition had a lot to offer both the specialist and casual visitor. It was interesting enough to engage someone with an indepth knowledge of craft and sculpture, but was well interpreted and therefore accessible to someone with less knowledge or less confidence in their knowledge.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

1.10 Please indicate events available and groups targeted:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		<p>Each of the artists came to the Uists to run workshops with both school groups and adults. TC appears to run workshops with exhibiting artists where possible and this is a very good policy.</p>
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	x	

workshops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	pre-school	<input type="checkbox"/>
artist's talks	<input type="checkbox"/>	primary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
discussion groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	secondary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		students	<input type="checkbox"/>
		over 18	<input type="checkbox"/>
		over 60	<input type="checkbox"/>
		other	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Please tick above as appropriate)

## 2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and by the venue. Please answer, where relevant, with reference to the checklist below adding any other comments/observations you may have.

- 2.1 Was the venue suitable for the event? **YES**
- 2.2 Information/Interpretive material provided at the venue (e.g. programmes, displays etc)
- range, quantity and clarity

**VERY GOOD, AS DETAILED ABOVE**

- 2.3 Publicity/Pre-Publicity for the Event (leaflets, posters, etc)
- range, content and when and where available. Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event. Please also view and comment on the company's website where one is advertised. Comment on the ease of use, and quality of content and presentation, and currency of information.

**I VIEWED THE WEBSITE BEFORE MY VISIT AND THIS GAVE USEFUL INFORMATION.**

- 2.4 Accessibility of the venue **THE VENUE IS ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
- ease of payment (if applicable) **N/A**
  - location **THE VENUE IS LOCATED NEAR THE FERRY TERMINAL**
  - external signposting **GOOD**
  - internal directional signing **GOOD**
  - access and provision for disabled people **THE CENTRE APPEARS TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**
  - opening hours/ timing of event **GOOD**
  - attractiveness for children/families **THIS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, ALTHOUGH COULD BE APPRECIATED BY A FAMILY AUDIENCE**
- 2.5 Customer service
- quality and efficiency of staff (eg welcoming, informed)

**THE STAFF ARE VERY FRIENDLY & HELPFUL**

3. **Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding** (if applicable)  
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 and exhibition materials, websites and advertising). Acknowledgement of the Scottish Arts Council grant must also be made in any secondary or indirect products arising from the revenue funding such as recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, and computer programmes etc. "*

Please comment on whether the above conditions of grant were met, including use and prominence of the Scottish Arts Council logo on the company's website.

**SAC FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGED**

4. **Scoring**

Overall Rating. Please rate the event overall, taking into account your ratings for each section. Please state the key reasons for your overall ratings – that is the particular strengths and weaknesses.

Overall Rating <i>(Please tick)</i>		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		
Poor		
Competent		
Good		
Excellent	X	

This was an excellent exhibition – well curated, well presented and well interpreted. It had something to offer a wide range of visitors and highlighted interesting approaches in relation to the use of found materials, relationships with natural forms and processes and questions of form and function.

**Name: Lisa Kapur**  
**Date: 15 March 2004**

**Advisor**     ✓  
*(Please tick above as appropriate)*

**Scottish Arts Council Officer**     □

YU - TAIGH CHEARSABHAGH

## THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL

### MONITORING REPORT

#### Introduction

The main purpose of the report is to record information that will contribute to the evaluation of the project. The following pages of this report will be made available to the organisation, on a non-attributable basis and therefore this page will be detached before copying.

The report should be written objectively and in plain English. Bear in mind the report will be read by the artist/arts organisation, Committee, Sub-Committee and SAC artform staff. The report should:

- Be clear and unambiguous
- Be relevant only to the event in question
- Constructively critical: offer praise and constructive criticism where due
- Offer alternative suggestions and positive advice where appropriate, and you are confident to do so

Please complete the form on your computer if possible – the form is available by e-mail and on disk.

Reimbursement of expenses will be made when the form is returned, together with a completed expenses claim form (N.B. expenses can only be claimed if the costs were agreed with SAC artform officers). Please complete and return this form to:

**Visual Arts Department, Scottish Arts Council  
12 Manor Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7DD**

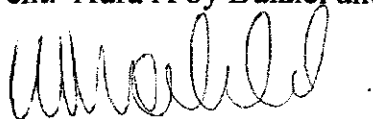
Your Name: Kirsteen Macdonald

Your Status: Sub\_committee member

Organisation/Event Visited: Taigh Chearsabhagh Trust

Title of Event: Aura A by Dalziel and Scullion

Signed:



Date: 28/4/03