



Scottish Arts Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – VISUAL ARTS

Organisation/Venue: Taigh Cheasabhagh, Lochnaddy, North Uist

Title of Event: Lotte Glob - “Floating Stones and Weighty Tombs”

Type of Event: Exhibition / Installation

Date of Visit: 2nd November 2005

Overall Rating (Please rate the production 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). **4**

The exhibition / installation by Lotte Glob is a very successful collaboration between the artist and Taigh Cheasabhagh.

The Arts Centre has a strategic objective to promote and develop environmental art, amidst one of the most spectacular settings in Western Europe.

Lotte Glob is totally dedicated to nature in its present form, having developed a close and extremely active relationship with the far north Highlands of Scotland for over twenty years. There is a strong sense of “belonging” between the work and the venue.

While the “Floating Stones” appear simple and decorative, their source and influence is complex. The “Weighty Tombs” are technically sophisticated and challenging to our perception of “the book”.

The balance of the themes of stones and books sit a little uneasily together but are well interpreted.

Taigh Cheasabhagh and in particular the Arts Officer who was instrumental in bringing this work to the Arts Centre could clearly see the relevance of the works and their sense of belonging to that space and venue.

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.

Name: **Robert A Saunders**

Date: 02 / 11 / 2005

Specialist Advisor

Scottish Arts Council Officer

Please circle the relevant title

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1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, with particular reference to the strengths and weaknesses of the following:

Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
Vision and imagination of artist's work ¹	4	The artist's work is deeply rooted in nature, in particular the ever changing and challenging landscape of Scotland. She sees her work as having an identity with nature, which she has extended in the wilderness regions of this country and throughout the world. She travels through these regions for days, often sleeping on mountain tops, which provides her with an endless source of inspiration. The materials she uses are from the landscape, clay formed from rock, granite, worn by time and reconstituted through her sophisticated technical process.
Curatorial vision/ selection – also indicate if the event has originated from the exhibiting organisation, part of a festival, artist-led, or commissioned	4	The exhibition / installation is the initiative of the Arts Officer of Taigh Cheasabhaigh, who visited the artist's studio in Durness, Scotland. The exhibition has two themes of stones and books, selected and installed by the artist, who spent 4 days roaming the landscape of North Uist.
Events available/ groups targeted – workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups, pre-school/ primary/ secondary students, >18, >60 etc	4	The artist led a workshop on "Running a Successful Crafts Business" at Kildonan, in conjunction with Applied Arts, Scotland. This was followed by a two day workshop on construction and technique. Numbers were restricted due to space, but filled to capacity. The Arts Centre offers a Diploma course in "Art and Design" and a BA course in Fine Art and Design, with a strong emphasis on the environment. A number of students were in attendance during my visit. Age 18 – 60.
Standard of Presentation – use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang	4	The exhibition was installed in a single gallery conversation, with introductory text on the staircase and stairwell leading to the gallery. A TV monitor within the gallery provided an AV presentation by Danish TV (with translation) on the life and work of Lotte Glob. The "Floating Stones" could be handled by visitors.
Foot Traffic – number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit	3	The number of visitors was limited in the forenoon but increased in the afternoon on the day of my visit.

¹ Quality of ideas, skills in execution, if you've seen the work of this artist(s) before – particularly in relation to new work or second productions

Audience Reaction – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments	4	In general the exhibition has been very well received. A significant percentage (over 50) of the small floating stones, available for sale, had been sold during the exhibition. The books "Weighty Tombs" are more challenging in many respects, concept, scale and price.
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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	5	The venue is in a spectacular setting. The surrounding terrain is breathtakingly beautiful (the day of my visit). The venue is ideally situated to complement this artist's work, which is so deeply rooted in such an immense and pure love of nature.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ²	4	The literature in the form of the artist's CV, labels, text and audio visual presentation was clear and informative. There was a range of complimentary reading matter available for sale in the gallery shop in the form of books, catalogues and postcards. The Arts Centre's Web Site promoted the exhibition and is easily accessible.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ³	4	There was a range of publicity material relating to this exhibition. Posters, leaflets. There was extensive coverage in two sections of monthly newspaper, which I understand is read by the vast majority of the population of the Western Isles.
Ease of booking and payment		
Location of venue		
External signage and signposting	5	A banner promoting the exhibition commissioned by Taigh Cheasabhagh at the main entrance driveway to the Arts Centre.
Internal directional signage	4	The internal signage was clear and direct within this small venue.
Access and provision for disabled people	4	The exhibition was on the upper floor of the Arts Centre with lift access for people with disabilities or special needs.

² These include wall panels, labels, catalogues, leaflets, artists CVs etc., assessing the range, quality and clarity

³ Publicity/pre-publicity (leaflets, posters, etc), including the 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

Opening times/ timing of the event	4	The gallery is open from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday, closed Sunday. The exhibition covered the period 17 th September – 5 th November 2005. There are a significant number of visitors to the Western Isles during this period. The Arts Centre is in close proximity to the ferry terminal and is frequented by a large majority of passengers. During my visit I spoke to visitors from Canada and it was clear from the visitors' book that the centre attracted visitors from throughout the world.
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. welcoming/ informed)	5	All of the staff were welcoming and helpful and the food in the café was excellent (home made lentil soup and locally smoked salmon 5x). The Arts Officer gave up a significant amount of his time to support my visit. His knowledge and information in relation to his collaboration with the artist was invaluable.
Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ⁴		The support of the Scottish Arts Council (with Logo) was clearly visible on all literature and publicity, including the Web Site. There is also a plaque on the Arts Centre wall acknowledging the Scottish Arts Council.

⁴ 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). 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, computer programmes etc.”

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