



**Artistic Evaluation – Visual Arts**

**Organisation/Venue:** TALBOT RICE GALLERY  
**Title of Event:** FRANCES WALKER  
**Type of Event:** Exhibition  
**Date of Visit:** Saturday 24 October 2003

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		Frances Walker is an accomplished artist in her field and the quality of her work is good. This was a solo exhibition of a recent body of work concentrating on Islands of the west coast of Scotland.
Poor		
Competent		
Good	<b>X</b>	
Excellent		

### 1.2 Clarity of Communication:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The exhibition had wall titles informing of name, title and medium, these labels also indicated which works had sold. The artists name was on the wall in vinyl text – although the wall was in quite bad condition.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	Overall the communication was clear and consistent in respect to the titling of the individual works.
Good		
Excellent		

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		I have seen work by this artist before and was looking for a more ambitious approach to this exhibition. It was interesting to see her book works within the context of the exhibit (and the artists practice), but although this was a new body of work on the theme of the Islands there was no impression of an attempt to chart developments or themes through the presentation of the work.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	
Good		

Excellent		
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1.4 Curatorial Vision/Selection:

Rating for this section (Please tick)		Comments and key reasons for rating:
Very Poor		The show consisted of a substantial body of work and it was interesting to see the artist's book works alongside the paintings, prints and drawings but the hang seemed a little uninspired.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	
Good		
Excellent		

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

- has been originated by the exhibiting organisation **X**  
 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		The works were well framed and professionally presented but the volume of work, coupled with the similar size of all the work made the hang quite monotonous. There seemed to be no sense of groupings or sections within the exhibit.  The book was presented well and was a welcome interruption to the rhythm of the hang.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	
Good		
Excellent		

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		There was very little interpretation material available in the gallery.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	There was no guide available on the day I visited and only a little education information on Frances Walker. However there was a substantial amount of material available in the Round Room for the exhibition by Marianne Greated.
Good		
Excellent		A book was available but a reading copy was only available at the front desk which discouraged browsing.

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

Rating for this section (Please tick)		
Very Poor		<b>1</b>
Poor	<b>X</b>	
Competent		
Good		
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		The other person worked their way around the exhibition in approx 5-10 minutes.
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	Visitor book comments were good.
Good		
Excellent		

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		
Poor		
Competent	<b>X</b>	
Good		
Excellent		

1.10 Please indicate events available and groups targeted:

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

workshops	<b>X</b>	pre-school	<input type="checkbox"/>
artist's talks	<b>X</b>	primary	<b>X</b>
discussion groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>
		students	<b>X</b>
		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  
**Competent - SEE 1.6**

- 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.  
**Competent – there was more information on the Website than in the gallery.**

- 2.4 Accessibility of the venue  
**COMPETENT**
- ease of payment (if applicable)  
**N/A**
  - location  
**GOOD**
  - external signposting  
**COMPETENT – the wall signage downstairs was in bad condition.**
  - internal directional signing  
**COMPETENT**
  - access and provision for disabled people  
**COMPETENT**
  - opening hours/ timing of event  
**COMPETENT**
  - attractiveness for children/families  
**COMPETENT**

- 2.5 Customer service
- quality and efficiency of staff (eg welcoming, informed)  
**COMPETENT**

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.  
**I could not see any acknowledgment on the website but it was on the wall text.**

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		This was a generally a routine presentation of the work of Frances Walker. Having viewed her work previously I found no new attempt to contextualise the work through education, interpretation or curatorial initiatives.
Poor	<b>X</b>	

Competent		This exhibition was generally what I would expect from a private gallery exhibit.
Good		
Excellent		The quality of the work was good but overall the impact was a little underwhelming.

**Name:** Elizabeth McLean  
**Date:** 03 November 2003

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

**Scottish Arts Council Officer**