



Scottish **Arts** Council

ARTISTIC EVALUATION – VISUAL ARTS

Organisation/Venue: Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh

Title of Event: Paula Rego

Type of Event: (*e.g. exhibition/workshop/screening/lecture*) **Exhibition**

Date of Visit: 9 September 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 Strong show of work by major artists for Edinburgh Festival slot.

Name: _Lorraine Grant_____ Date: _30_/_09_/_05_

Specialist 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, 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	5	Great retrospective look at career of this major artist, covering work in a range of mediums subjects and approaches.
Curatorial vision/ selection – also indicate if the event has originated from the exhibiting organisation, part of a festival, artist-led, or commissioned	4	Major installation of over 200 works. Curated by organisation in association with Malborough Fine Art.
Events available/ groups targeted – workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups, pre-school/ primary/ secondary students, >18,>60 etc	4	Good range of talks, events and workshops organised in association with the exhibition, including talks by the artist herself and critic Robert Hughes. Range of workshops provided for local schools. – primary and secondary
Standard of Presentation – use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang	3 - 4	Given the quantity of works on show, the exhibition space is somewhat visually overwhelming. On the positive side the hang reinforced the sheer output of Rego's career and provided a fantastic opportunity to access several key portfolios of work at first hand. Handouts and clear labelling – with small reading/research area provided for visitors.
Foot Traffic – number of visitors/ participants at the time of visit	3	Three other visitors at time of visit (between 1and 2pm)
Audience Reaction – time spent, interest, activity, and visitors' books comments	4	All visitors spent a long time going around the galleries – with positive comments observed.

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

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	4	Appropriate, major artist for key venue during the important Edinburgh festival slot.
Information/ interpretive material at venue ²	3	Range of handouts and relevant publications available within gallery. Catalogues and press coverage provided in upper gallery.
Publicity/ pre-publicity ³	3	Programme leaflet seen in Aberdeen prior to visit and notice in arts listings. Limited promotional material around gallery and campus site.
Ease of booking and payment		N/A
Location of venue	3	Good central location, but gallery still quite hidden due to location in University Quadrangle.
External signage and signposting	2	See above. Need to improve off-street signage and visibility.
Internal directional signage	3	Adequate signage to gallery by stairs/lift.
Access and provision for disabled people	2-3	Access limited for those with physical impairments, although main gallery space can be accessed by lift
Opening times/ timing of the event	3	Standard range of opening /event times, although no evening opening beyond 5pm despite the Festival slot Aug 6-Sept 3 10-5 Sun 2-5 Sept 6- 24 10-5 (closed Sun & Mon)
Customer service - quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. welcoming/ informed)	4	Gallery Staff welcoming and happy to answer queries about artist and events programme in general.

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

Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ⁴	4	SAC acknowledged on all print material and website, which is easy to use
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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.