

# Pilots to Practice

## Learning approaches for artists working in participatory settings

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead  
10.00 to 17.00, Tuesday, 9 September 2014

### Programme

Time	Session	Location (all level 1)
10.00	<b>Arrival and registration</b>	Orientation space
10.30	<b>Welcome</b> Conference Chair Mark Robinson, Interim Director, mima and Director, Thinking Practice	Auditorium
10.35	<b>ArtWorks overview</b> Susanne Burns, Project Director, ArtWorks	
10.45	<b>ArtWorks North East overview</b> Judith Hills, Project Director, ArtWorks North East	
10.55	<b>Critical conversation</b> David Butler, Coordinator LifeWorkArt, Newcastle University, facilitates a critical conversation involving interdisciplinary artist Alexia Mellor and Catrina McHugh, Artistic Director and writer at Open Clasp. Critical conversations provide an opportunity for artists to critically reflect and discuss their practice with others.	
11.35	<b>Panel on learning approaches in participatory practice</b> Susanne Burns, Project Director, ArtWorks, chairs a panel which explores the various learning approaches piloted by the ArtWorks pathfinders. Panel members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ned Glasier, Artistic Director of Islington Community Theatre and The Barbican ArtWorks Fellow</li> <li>• Kay Hepplewhite, Senior Lecturer in Performance, Northumbria University and co-facilitator for ArtWorks North East short courses</li> <li>• Rhian Hutchings, Youth and Community Leader, Welsh National Opera and Project Lead, ArtWorks Cymru</li> <li>• Caroline Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Radio, University of Sunderland and co-facilitator for ArtWorks North East short courses</li> </ul>	Orientation space
12.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.30	<b>Timed presentations</b> Welcome back by Chair Mark Robinson. Artists share their participatory practice through short, timed presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bethany Elen Coyle, Community Arts Practitioner, will explore and showcase some of her own practice, performance and participatory arts work and deliver a presentation on participatory arts and performance as a tool for change.</li> <li>• Lisa Miller, Lead Creative Tutor at Media Savvy, will provide a snapshot of Media Savvy's core work in relation to her artistic practice in design and illustration.</li> <li>• Stephen Pritchard, Director of dot to dot active arts, presents on above ground level – old as new, new as old: grassroots social practice in a post-industrial port.</li> <li>• Rob Winter, Ceramics Technician at the University of Sunderland, has been working with glass and ceramics for over 20 years and during this presentation he shares his passion for working within the community both in the UK and internationally.</li> </ul>	Auditorium

14.10	<b>Breakouts 1 – delegates to sign up on the day for one of the following:</b>	<b>See locations below (all level 1)</b>
	<b>CoPkit</b> Kathryn Deane, ArtWorks Navigator and Sound Sense, gives an overview of the ArtWorks code of practice principles for artists working in participatory settings.	<b>Auditorium</b>
	<b>Website <a href="http://www.artworks-u.org.uk">www.artworks-u.org.uk</a></b> Alison O'Hara, Project Manager, ArtWorks North East, highlights the resources developed and identified to support ArtWorks North East's short courses for artists working in participatory practice.	<b>Cinema</b>
	<b>Reflective practice</b> Dave Camlin, Head of Higher Education and Research, Sage Gateshead, reflects on ArtWorks North East's peer artist learning project which provided structured opportunities for artists of more or less experience in participatory settings to reflect with their peers on their experiences, in pairs, and in small and large groups.	<b>The Cube</b>
	<b>Critical Conversations</b> Toby Lowe, Chief Executive, Helix Arts, presents the findings from his report on ArtWorks North East's critical conversations series.	<b>Meeting room</b>
14.40	<b>Tea/coffee/cake</b>	<b>Orientation space</b>
15.00	<b>Breakouts 2 – delegates to sign up on the day for one of the following:</b>	<b>See locations below (all level 1)</b>
	<b>CoPkit</b> Kathryn Deane, ArtWorks Navigator and Sound Sense, gives an overview of the ArtWorks code of practice principles for artists working in participatory settings.	<b>Auditorium</b>
	<b>Website <a href="http://www.artworks-u.org.uk">www.artworks-u.org.uk</a></b> Alison O'Hara, Project Manager, ArtWorks North East, highlights the resources developed and identified to support ArtWorks North East's short courses for artists working in participatory practice.	<b>Cinema</b>
	<b>Reflective practice</b> Dave Camlin, Head of Higher Education and Research, Sage Gateshead, reflects on ArtWorks North East's peer artist learning project which provided structured opportunities for artists of more or less experience in participatory settings to reflect with their peers on their experiences, in pairs, and in small and large groups.	<b>The Cube</b>
	<b>Critical Conversations</b> Toby Lowe. Chief Executive, Helix Arts, presents the findings from his report on ArtWorks North East's critical conversations series.	<b>Meeting room</b>
15.30	<b>The future for ArtWorks and ArtWorks North East</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
	Susanne Burns, Project Director, ArtWorks, on what's next for ArtWorks.	
	Judith Hills, Project Director, ArtWorks North East, on ArtWorks North East's legacy.	
	Rebecca Ball, Director, The Cultural Spring, on partnership working and opportunities for artists working in participatory settings with Creative People and Places.	
16.00	<b>Closing comments</b> Conference Chair Mark Robinson, Interim Director, mima and Director, Thinking Practice	
16.15	<b>Conference ends</b> Please join us for post-conference drinks.	<b>Orientation space</b>

## Speakers' Biographies

### Rebecca Ball

Rebecca is Project Director of The Cultural Spring, an Arts Council England funded Creative People and Places Programme which is working to increase opportunities for arts participation amongst residents in ten wards in Sunderland and South Tyneside. Rebecca has worked as a producer, manager and policy maker in the arts for 15 years. She began her career in dance working for The Place, CUE arts management and South East Dance. She worked at Arts Council England in a number of roles, becoming Director of Arts for the South East region in 2010. Prior to The Cultural Spring Rebecca was General Manager for North East based theatre company ZENDEH. She has an MA in Cultural Policy, and in 2011 was a Fellow on the Clore Cultural Leadership Programme through which she spent time at National Theatre Wales and with Ambassador Theatre Group.

### Susanne Burns

Susanne is currently the Project Director for ArtWorks – a special initiative of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. A senior arts leader, freelance management consultant and trainer with over 30 years of senior management experience in the cultural sector, her work has encompassed dance, theatre, music and the visual arts. She has led several major evaluation projects including the longitudinal evaluation of In Harmony Liverpool, Arts and Health programmes for Merseyside PCT and a youth arts programme for Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art. She has carried out major research projects including the dance mapping work for Arts Council England. She has extensive experience of working in Higher Education and has a professional doctorate from Middlesex University.

### David Butler

David is Coordinator of LifeWorkArt at Newcastle University, a professional development programme for fine art students. LifeWorkArt also supports professional development for artists and others in the cultural sector. He is Co-Director of Intersections, a public art research group [www.intersectionspublicart.org.uk](http://www.intersectionspublicart.org.uk). He has over 25 years' experience and knowledge of working in the visual arts as artist, arts manager, commentator and teacher, working both independently and with others.

### Dave Camlin

Dave is Head of Higher Education and Research at Sage Gateshead. He is a musician whose professional portfolio includes performance, composition, teaching, organisational development, management and research. A well-respected singer-song writer, he has performed all over the world as a solo performer and with various ensembles, including vocal groups Mouthful and Human Music, as well as folk groups including The Coast Road, Tryckster and Altar Native. He is the founder of Cumbrian music organisation, SoundWave, where he was Creative Director from 2005-10, and has been one of the organisers of Solfest music festival in Cumbria since it started in 2002. He was a secondary school teacher for eight years, and is currently researching dialogic perspectives on *Participatory* and *Presentational* music for his professional doctorate (DProf). As part of ArtWorks North East, he co-facilitated sessions on the 2013-14 short courses for artists working in participatory settings.

### Kathryn Deane

Kathryn has run Sound Sense, the UK association for community musicians, since 1995. As a member of ArtWorks Navigator, she is making the case for quality indicators for participatory artists, building on her work co-devising the Code of Practice for music practitioners, National Occupational Standards for community arts, and an accredited qualification for music educators. She is adviser to Sage Gateshead/University of Sunderland BA (Hons) in community music. She edits the UK journal of community music, Sounding Board, and sits on the editorial board of the International journal of community music. She evaluates community music programmes and contributes to major publications nationally, including a chapter on community music pedagogy for *Reaching out: Music education with hard to reach children and young people* (Music Mark).

### **Bethany Elen Coyle**

Bethany is a singer, composer and community musician, performing her music all over the UK. Bethany studied Folk and Traditional Music and is passionate about the culture, heritage and socio-political history of the North East region. Bethany is a committed activist working within communities and alongside trade unions campaigning for regional, national and global issues, disability rights, women's rights, young people's rights, anti global poverty and calling for more creative approaches to political campaigning - as demonstrated through her political and protest song work. Bethany is the Co-ordinator of North East Journey to Justice - [www.journeytojustice.org](http://www.journeytojustice.org) - a human rights organisation. Journey to Justice (JtoJ) aims to inspire people, through learning from past and present human rights struggles to take action for social justice. Bethany is founder and Musical Director of Song, Protest, Rhythm and Rhyme - an independent, community choir of conscience, campaigning for social justice, political reform and positive change, based at the Mining Institute, Newcastle.

### **Ned Glasier**

Ned is a theatre director and the Artistic Director of Islington Community Theatre (ICT), which he founded in 2008 and now runs with Adam Coleman. ICT creates original theatre with and by referred young people in one of London's most diverse, unequal and challenging boroughs. With ICT he has devised and directed more than 30 productions in collaboration with writers Inua Ellams, Alice Birch, Alexandra Wood, Janice Okoh and Omar El-Khairy. Ned has previously directed participatory theatre projects with the Young Vic Theatre, Old Vic Theatre, National Theatre, Royal Lyceum Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Almeida Theatre and Theatre for a Change in Ghana. He was the winner of the Rupert Rhymes Bursary in 2008 and was the Barbican ArtWorks Fellow 2013-14.

### **Kay Hepplewhite**

Kay has a background in performance, and theatre in community and social contexts. She is currently completing a PhD at University of Manchester on the expertise of applied theatre practitioners. She has published in Theatre, Dance and Performance Training Journal and Research in Drama Education, Journal of Applied Performance. She is currently writing a chapter for a book on Facilitation for a new Methuen series. Kay is Senior Lecturer in Performance at Northumbria University, for BA Drama and Applied Theatre. Prior to this she was at York St John University where she set up and led a foundation degree in Community Arts and the MA in Applied Theatre. She was a Teaching Fellow and established the Alchemists At Work initiative (<http://www.yorks.ac.uk/arts/faculty-of-arts/researchcom/archive/alchemists-at-work.aspx>). As part of ArtWorks North East, she co-facilitated sessions on the 2013-14 short courses for artists working in participatory settings.

### **Judith Hills**

Judith is the Associate Dean for Recruitment and Development in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media at the University of Sunderland and is the Project Director for ArtWorks North East. From a background in Music Education, she taught in schools and HE, led successful community projects with students in Performing Arts and ran adult community music groups herself.

### **Rhian Hutchings**

Rhian Hutchings is the Youth and Community Director at Welsh National Opera. She has been working in opera for the last 15 years: she spent three years as a staff director at English National Opera, and worked as a freelance director with a wide range of companies including Opera North, Raymond Gubbay Ltd, Garsington Opera, and Music in the Round. Rhian's career choices have been led by her passion for new opera and participatory work. She began her association with Welsh National Opera in 2003 when she ran the commissioning process for The Tailor's Daughter, which was performed by the Welsh National Youth Opera in 2005. For WNO, she has commissioned nine major pieces for young people and communities, developed the Street Songs programme with communities in Wales, created WNO Extra - a bespoke audience insight programme, and is project lead for Artworks Cymru - a special initiative exploring artists who work in participatory settings. She sits on a number of boards and forums, and is an active member of RESEO.

### **Toby Lowe**

Toby Lowe is Chief Executive of Helix Arts, an arts organisation which specialises in unlocking the creative potential of the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in society. Helix Arts delivers arts programmes across North East England and helps to shape policy and practice in participatory arts nationally and internationally. Through providing the best arts opportunities to people who have previously had least, Helix Arts enables people to explore, reflect on and share the stories that define who they are. In addition to his work at Helix Arts, Toby is a visiting fellow of Newcastle University Business School and is a Trustee of the Millfield House Foundation, a grant-making trust which supports organisations to campaign for policy change to relieve poverty in the North East of England. As part of ArtWorks North East, he co-facilitated sessions on the 2013-14 short courses for artists working in participatory settings.

### **Catrina McHugh**

Catrina co-founded Open Clasp Theatre Company in 1998 and is currently the Artistic Director and Writer. Open Clasp is a women's theatre company specialising in creating high quality theatre from a female gaze for mixed audiences. Their work is created in collaboration with women from the North East and the company exists to make truthful, risk taking theatre which is informed by the lived experiences of the women and young women they work with. Catrina has successfully worked with communities for 15 years to create and tour challenging and exciting theatre that provides powerful stimulus for discussion, debate and social change.

### **Alexia Mellor**

Alexia is an interdisciplinary artist using participation, humour and performative strategies to investigate issues of security, displacement and identity in an increasingly corporatised and mediated landscape. Working collaboratively with participants, she transposes familiar institutional models into unfamiliar contexts to deconstruct social norms, consumer culture and notions of place. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, including: Working Culture Residency at The NewBridge Project (UK), KunstVlaai Art Fair (Amsterdam), Mash-ups, Lake Forest College, Illinois (USA), New England Photography Biennial at the Danforth Museum of Art (USA), and at the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art (USA). In addition to her studio practice, Alexia organised and chaired MIND THE GAP, a multi-media and multi-platform art initiative and panel at ISEA2011 Istanbul. She recently relocated to Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) after co-teaching an art-science course in Saudi Arabia, and serving as artist-in-residence for a regeneration programme in South Wales. Alexia has been awarded an AHRC-funded studentship for her upcoming doctoral work at Newcastle University (UK).

### **Lisa Miller**

Lisa graduated from the University of Sunderland in 2012 as a mature student. She achieved a First Class Honours degree in Illustration and Design, one of her highlights was to have her work displayed in a New York gallery. Lisa has been working for Media Savvy for 1.5 years and is now the company's Lead Tutor. Her roles primarily involve teaching based duties but she also gets a chance regularly to put her own design and illustration skills to good use in the form of marketing materials and some commercial ventures. Lisa was also the instigator and key developer of the company's inaugural annual exhibition – SHINE! – which showcases the graduated learners' creative work in digital arts and media.

### **Caroline Mitchell**

Caroline has been active in production, teaching and research about community radio since 1988. She combines work as a Senior Lecturer in Radio at the University of Sunderland with consultancies in community media evaluation and training. She has led several EU-funded projects to train disadvantaged social groups and their social partners in the communication and technical skills needed to make use of community media. She is currently working on a three year HERA funded project called Transnational Radio Encounters carrying out participatory action research with radio stations and minority ethnic groups. <http://www.transnationalradio.org/>. See also <http://www.crmcs.sunderland.ac.uk/research-staff/caroline-mitchell/> and <http://www.crmcs.sunderland.ac.uk/projects-and-collaborations/caroline-mitchell/>. As part of ArtWorks North East, she co-facilitated sessions on the 2013-14 short courses for artists working in participatory settings.

### **Alison O'Hara**

Alison is Project Manager for ArtWorks North East and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. Based at the University of Sunderland and working with ten partner organisations, she has managed the delivery of a pilot series of short courses for artists and media practitioners who work or aspire to work in participatory settings and has developed the resources website [www.artworks-u.org.uk](http://www.artworks-u.org.uk). She has worked in the cultural sector since 1998 including project managing the rebrand and relaunch of National Glass Centre in 2013, six years as Chief Executive of Audiences North East and various roles at Arts Council England.

### **Stephen Pritchard**

Stephen is an art historian, curator, socially engaged practitioner, writer, arts project manager and an academic. He founded dot to dot active arts and has worked on many socially engaged arts projects. He has extensive experience in curating contemporary arts exhibitions and events in galleries and in unusual spaces. He is currently researching socially engaged activist arts practices and their potential to support a different form of future democratic state where social justice and fairness might replace neoliberal capitalist technocracies. Stephen is sceptical, doubtful of truths and mistrusting of state instrumentalism – he's a critical theorist; an anti-elitist. He's also driven by art that questions power and opens up new relationships. As such, he tends towards the anti-aesthetic, to text, objects, discourse, people. Stephen inevitably struggles with figurative form, preferring living as form.

### **Mark Robinson**

Mark is Interim Director at mima and Director of Thinking Practice, working to increase the impact and resilience of the arts and cultural sector through the creative use of analysis, planning, facilitation and coaching. He has recently worked with Mission Models Money on their re.volution programme. He is the author of the influential paper Making Adaptive Resilience Real and of The Role of Diversity in Building Adaptive Resilience (latter with Tony Nwachukwu, both published by Arts Council England). He was previously Executive Director of Arts Council England, North East. He is the chair of Swallows Foundation UK, connecting artists and organisations in North East England to the Eastern Cape in South Africa. He is also a widely published and award-winning poet, editor and critic. He writes regularly at [www.thinkingpractice.blogspot.com](http://www.thinkingpractice.blogspot.com).

### **Rob Winter**

Rob has been working with glass and ceramics for over 20 years. After graduating from his first degree Rob worked in the glass industry for nine years. He returned to clay and ceramics at The University of Sunderland around 12 years ago. An ever present aspect to Rob's practice has been a passion for working within the community both in the UK and internationally. Rob has taught ceramics to students at all levels and delivered workshops to the public in a diverse range of learning environments. Rob completed a Master of Arts with distinction in 2005. In 2007 Rob began establishing partnerships between the University of Sunderland and various Fair-Trade organisations. Rob has delivered workshops and undertaken University supported consultancies in India and Peru. He is regularly consulted by Potteries in Vietnam and Africa.

## About ArtWorks

ArtWorks North East is the pathfinder project in North East England for ArtWorks: Developing Practice in Participatory Settings, a new special initiative which supports the continuing professional development of artists working in participatory settings. A special initiative from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, ArtWorks is a workforce scheme that seeks to meet the needs of artists at different stages in their careers - from the aspiring young artist embarking on training, to experienced practitioners who wish to progress their output. It is seeking to build on good practice to enhance the existing development infrastructure.

The North East pathfinder is led by the University of Sunderland in partnership with BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, Equal Arts, Helix Arts, Live Theatre, National Glass Centre, New Writing North, Northern Stage, Regional Youth Work Unit North East, Sage Gateshead and Tyneside Cinema. ArtWorks North East's activities focus on employability, progression and the status of artists working in participatory settings.

ArtWorks: Developing Practice in Participatory Settings is a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Special Initiative with funding and support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Creativity, Culture & Education (supported by Arts Council England) and the Cultural Leadership Programme.



*Image: artwork created by young people accessing Gateshead Youth Offending team with artist Tommy Anderson, Photo: © Tommy Anderson*