

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

Annual Report

2006-2007



'Caledonia Bowling' from Derek Lodge's Residency at Persistence Works in 2006

Contents	Page
Introduction	2
Foreword	3
Organisational Development	4
The year's activities	6
Premises and the year's finances	12
Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet	13
Our Highlights	15

Introduction

Yorkshire ArtSpace Society was established in Sheffield in 1977 to provide **affordable workspace** for artists and craftspeople. The membership is made up of a wide variety of artists and makers and 68 members have studios at Yorkshire ArtSpace's purpose-built premises, Persistence Works.

As well as work space the Society offers a **professional development** service to visual artists in the region covering many different aspects of visual arts practice and addressing the needs of artists and makers at various points in their careers.

The **Artist in Residence** Programme, launched in 2004, forms the heart of a wide-ranging programme of activity that encompasses professional development as well as community outreach, education and public events.

Public access to the studios and artistic product is enabled through the annual Open Studio event and a dynamic exhibition programme.

The Society is run by a Board of Directors, a Members Committee and seven members of staff.

Foreword

I am pleased to be writing my first Chair's foreword for the Yorkshire ArtSpace Annual Report and would like to start with heartfelt thanks to David Alston for his contribution as acting Chair last year.

Yorkshire ArtSpace offers so much more than you might imagine from the outside. I was already aware of the national importance of the Persistence Works as a ground-breaking purpose built studio complex. What has come as a pleasant surprise are the additional services that are offered to studio-holders and non-studio holders alike including professional development programmes, advice surgeries, and exhibition opportunities. I have also been delighted by the Artist in Residence Programme that offers the chance for all of us to meet a wide range of engaging artists and the reporting of the success of this programme along with the growth of our Open Studios events are two of the highlights of this report.

I have joined the Society at a very exciting moment in its long history. Having successfully opened Persistence Works and developed a comprehensive programme of activities, we are now poised to extend our core services to the many artists and makers in the city, and beyond, who have no workspace. The securing of the Thrive! Organisational Development funding in December 2006 has laid the foundations for the next stage of Yorkshire ArtSpace's development. The funding will enable us to accurately assess the needs of artists without workspace and gauge the level of demand, to prepare ourselves to be a multi-site organisation and to engage with new delivery partners. I am confident that within the next three years we will be able to add at least 30 additional studio spaces to our portfolio to allow greater opportunities, choice and flexibility.

Narendra Bajarja, Chair



Organisational Development

A new vision document was developed and formally accepted by the Board during 2006/07 with a series of objectives in four categories – Secure, Engage, Involve and Develop. We made progress in the following areas during the period of this report:

Secure

The development of more studios is the key to increasing our earned income while maintaining an offer that is affordable for artists and makers. In December 2006 almost £200,000 of funding was secured from Arts Council England through their Thrive! Organisational Development Programme to prepare the organisation for expansion and to fund essential market testing and advocacy work.

In September 2006 we implemented a phased increase in space charges at Persistence Works in order to accumulate a discreet Building Maintenance Fund for any unexpected expenditure on the fabric of the building

Engage

As you will see in the 'Activities' section, significant funding was secured during 2006/07 to support a second, more ambitious, Residency Programme that extends the offer to international artists and makers and includes a series of residency related exhibitions.

The Starter Studio Programme continued to build on a service to new silversmithing businesses that is unique in the UK and 'Starting Out' was as well received as ever by the 20 start-up visual arts businesses that attended the 6 week course.

The Exhibitions Programme at Persistence Works continued to grow through 2006/07 in range, quality and attendance and the annual Open Studio event attracted an unprecedented 800 visitors over 2 days.

Involve

We held a number of social events during 2006/07 including a 5th birthday party for Persistence Works with a special screening of artist in residence Derek Lodge's film 'The Butcher Called Me Love'. To aid communication within the organisation Board member David Morley instigated the Yorkshire ArtSpace on-line forum.

In 2006/07 we underwent a review of the Waiting List to ensure that everyone on it was actively seeking studio space with Yorkshire ArtSpace. We instigated a nominal charge for administration of the list. At the same time we opened up the exhibitions programme to non-members and started to distribute the e-newsletter to anyone at no charge. As a result we ended the period with a relatively low membership of 89 (but all 89 were paid up and active members) but regular communication with over 400 artists via e-news.

Develop

The Thrive! Programme will enable us to expand the studio base to meet the needs of artists and makers in the region and to develop a wider offer. We have recognised the need to play an active part in the development of the sector locally and nationally – I became a Trustee of the newly formed National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers in 2006, represented 'The Arts' on the Sheffield City Council Culture Board and attended national advocacy events.

We recruited a new Chair, Narendra Bajaria, in February 2007. Acting Chair David Alston stood down. We also recruited a new Board member with skills in property and regeneration, Cllr Tim Rippon. Narendra also has a wealth of experience in this area. We ended 2006/07 with a Board vacancy for Curatorial skills with the departure of David, and a continuing gap in CPD. There were no staff changes during this period.

Kate Dore, Director

The year's activities

The Residency Programme

2006-07 saw the successful completion of our first Residency Programme and the securing of funding for a more ambitious second programme. Programme 2 was supported with funding from the Arts Council England through G4A, Esmee Fairbairn and the Learning & Skills Council through the European Social Fund. A publication was produced to document and celebrate the first programme.

Claire Morgan

4th artist in residence, March/April 2006

Art(ists) & The Public Realm.

Clare created two large-scale sculptural works in the public art space; 'Perch (Crowdpleaser)' and 'Warning' to test out and develop ideas in reaction to architectural and spatial qualities. The Opening Event attracted over 50 people.

We also hosted Art(ists) & The Public Realm discussion event in April attended by over 20 people from the creative and public realm sector. Speakers included James Arnold (Sheffield City Council), Matt Hearn (Locus + art commissioning agency in Newcastle) and Claire Morgan (artist in residence).



'Crowd Pleaser' from Claire Morgan's Residency 2006

Robin Close

5th artist in residence, June/August 2006.

Art(ists) & Health

Sheffield-based artist Robin Close undertook an investigative study into societal perceptions of mental health during his residency at Persistence Works. This research was conducted in a deliberately neurotic and scatological manner as a commentary on clichéd comparisons made between 'madness and creativity'. Robin 'revealed his findings' to an audience of over 150 people on one evening in August.

We held an **Art(ists) & Health information event** in June attended by 23 participants. The event aimed to highlight developments and potential for artists within the health sector and enabled us to invite as speakers key people from organisations we met during our research phase for this residency project including; Brian Chapman (Lime, Manchester), Gail Bolland (Tonic, Leeds), Emily Penn (Critical Connections, Arts Council) and Lisa Watts (artist).

We also ran a complementary **outreach project: Horseplay** over 6 week period with 15 young people dealing with mental health problems in partnership with Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust and Oakwood Young People's Centre. The project aimed to address the often low self esteem and poor self image that these teenagers have and improve confidence and communication. Lead artist Alan McLean and placement artist Alexis Gotts enabled the young people to create a series of short films and video artworks. With an abundance of costumes and props to trigger ideas and imaginations the workshops explored role play, narrative and character development in a safe and fun environment.

"I believe that the workshops have aided the development of self confidence and self esteem of several teenagers. Some teenagers initially refrained from involvement in some of the workshops due to shyness and lack of confidence, however with support and encouragement from staff and the artists they joined in with most of the activities."
Oakwood staff member



"I thought this project was excellent because I was in it."

Oakwood participant

'Alan Dressing Bear' from Alan McLean's outreach project at Oakwood

Derek Lodge

6th artist in residence, Oct/Dec 2006

Art(ists) & Audiences

The question Derek Lodge posed to himself whilst in residency was 'How do you make a film and create songs about Sheffield in 8 weeks when you are an outsider?' He proceeded to tackle this with the assistance of The Sheffield Circle of Magicians, The Caledonian Society of Sheffield, Sheffield City Morris, the Sir Cliff Richard Meeting House of Sheffield and the general public of Sheffield. Derek also used our Open Studio event to meet with over 450 visitors and engage them in his project and the responses given to his questions formed the lyrics to songs. The resulting film *The Butcher Called Me Love* with accompanying songs arising out of these interactions and collaborations with others was screened on 15th December and attracted over 130 people.



Sheffield City Morris performing at Persistence Works as part of Derek Lodge's Residency 2006

Art(ists) & Education

In partnership with Creative Partnerships, Sheffield we delivered a programme of work with KS3 Riverside Inclusion Support Centre who offer services to young people aged 11-14 who have been or are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education as a result of emotional, psychological, behavioral and social problems. Two artists, Moya Sketchley and Kate Sully delivered activities exploring age appropriate creative play to promote enjoyment and have a positive impact on behaviour.

In January 2007, also with support from Creative Partnerships, Sheffield we ran an artists' professional development event; **Challenging Challenging Behaviour** which attracted 25 artists and arts education practitioners. The day aimed to inform and equip artists with creative solutions, strategies and mechanisms to deal with difficult behaviour. Presentations by Jan Paine (Executive Headteacher from Pupil Referral Service, Slough) Rachael Dodd (Yorkshire ArtSpace Society), Donna Berry (artist based in Liverpool) and interactive forum theatre workshop by Dead Earnest Theatre.

Paul Morrison

7th artist in residence, Feb/March 2007

Art(ists) & Practice : Painting & Printmaking

Paul Morrison was selected through a nominations process compiled by Yorkshire ArtSpace Residency Programme Mangers and tutors from Sheffield Hallam University as a way to strengthen a new partnership. Paul used his 8 weeks at Persistence Works to work on a new painting and woodcut images which were shown for the first time during an open studio event in March.



'Knust Image 2.2' produced by Paul Morrison during his residency at Persistence Works 2007

In February 2008 we organised an **artist's talk** by Paul Morrison at Sheffield Hallam University, this was attended by 25 people and provided an opportunity for participants to see and hear about Paul's practice and approach but also to share their own work and ideas.

We also ran a series of **printmaking workshops** for 12 members of the public delivered by established printmaker Neil Woodall based at Persistence Works, exploring aspects of etching for beginners to the more experienced. Neil worked with a **placement** artist Mike MacGabhann who helped him and gained experience of running workshops for the public.

The Starter Studio Programme

The programme continued to go from strength to strength with the large majority of 'graduates' going on to successfully establish their businesses. Further funding for the programme was secured from The Sheffield Assay Office, Learning & Skills Council through the European Social Fund, Sheffield Town Trust and the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

Visual artists Bodil Frenberg and Becky Bowley completed the programme in September 2006. New participants Mike MacGabhann and David Garratt started the programme later that month.

Silversmiths Owen Waterhouse, Victoria Kershaw, Amba McNamara and Rebecca Lawley also completed the programme in September 2006. Their final exhibition 'EXIT' was shown in November in the reception space of Persistence Works where 70 people attended the private view. Victoria went on to establish her own workshop in Butcher Works while Owen won a scholarship to undertake an MA at Sheffield Hallam University. Maya Selway and Victoria Delany, who started the programme in September 2005 exhibited in Little Gems 2, the Assay Office sponsored new commissions, at the Millennium Galleries from November 2006 to May 2007. Rebecca Joselyn and Sarah Denny started the programme in September 2006.



'Cake Slice and Stand' by Victoria Kershaw

Starting Out 2006

Our annual intensive six day course for new visual arts businesses ran each Thursday from 13th September to 18th October 2007 with 21 participants and very positive feedback as ever. The course covered a range of topics relating to starting, sustaining and developing a creative arts practice. It was financially supported by the Learning and Skills Council through the European Social Fund, Arts Council England – Yorkshire through G4A and participants' contributions.

'This course has been wonderful. It showed me that using my skills in different working sectors isn't demeaning and can actually be greatly beneficial'.

Starting Out participant

1-2-1 Surgeries

Surgery sessions were offered by both programme managers throughout the year to 6 visual artists/makers each month with advice on funding applications, marketing strategies, portfolio & career development, 'general business health' checks and working within the education/outreach sector.

Exhibitions and Events

A total of 12 exhibitions were held in the **reception space** during 2006/07 representing a diverse range of artistic and craft practice including photography, painting, silverware, metalwork and jewellery, ceramics and installation. The total number of visitors for the year was 5,059.

The silverware exhibition, **EXIT**, showcased the work of the 'graduates' of the Starter Studio Programme for Designer Silversmiths. The Curatorial Committee also commissioned an exhibition that was projected on the exterior façade of Persistence Works. **Vessel**, a light installation by Richard Bolam and Roger Gibson was commissioned as part of the **Light Night** festivities which celebrated creativity in the Yorkshire region. Sheffield Hallam University held their Metalwork & Jewellery degree show in the Public Art Space during May.



The November **Open Studios** was a huge success which attracted almost 800 visitors over the weekend. The Friday night launch had a fantastic atmosphere with live music from acoustic duet, Sienna, complementary mulled wine and mince pies and saw almost 40 studios open to the public as well as the Public Art Space as part of Derek Lodge's Residency. Saturday's event included artist guided tours of the building, workshops and artist talks. The weekend also saw the launch of the Christmas Boxes Charity Auction that raised over £600 for Shelter, the charity that combats homelessness and poverty.

Photo of Persistence Works by Paula Kirby, enhanced by Rocca Creative for the open studios brochure

Rachael Dodd, Programme Manager, Education and Outreach
Mir Jansen, Programme Manager, Artists' Professional Development
Viv Mager, Receptionist

Premises

Persistence Works - Spaces

We continued to enjoy 100% occupancy of studios throughout this period. There was no movement this year in development plans for the Public Art Space as the space was in use nearly all the time. Despite an advertising campaign the Education Space remained largely unused.

Persistence Works - Maintenance and Safety

We continued to be advised by Robin Clark, a Health and Safety consultant and the annual safety reviews in the studios were very productive. A Building Maintenance Fund was set up in 06/07 through small but regular increases in space charges and this discreet fund will be used to cover any unexpected major expenditure on the premises. We secured the services of James Mooney as a Building Maintenance Consultant and he has advised on new contracts as well as general issues. Glass Wall – sadly nothing resolved this year although the panels suffered further damage through vandalism

The year's finances

Below in table form is a summary of the Management Accounts for the year of the report. These are based purely on income and expenditure (excluding any building depreciation) to aid members' understanding of our day to day finances. These accounts look at three separate areas of our activity – premises, programme (outreach and training activity) and organisation (relating to our other non-studio activity). This enables us to see how each of the three areas is meeting costs.

	Income(£k)	Expenditure(£k)	Difference(£k)
Premises	125	125	0
Programme	129	128	1
Organisation	18	18	0
Total	272	271	1

Stuart Wright, Operations Manager

The following summary of financial statements on pages 13 - 14 has been extracted from the statutory report and financial statements of Yorkshire ArtSpace Society Limited, which were approved by the Board on 29 January 2008 and signed on its behalf by Narendra Balaria. The full financial statements were given an unqualified audit report by the company's auditors Messrs. Allotts, Chartered Accountants. The full financial statements have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission. These summarized accounts are not statutory accounts and may not contain sufficient information to allow for full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full annual accounts, the auditors' report and the directors' report should be consulted: copies of these can be obtained from the company's office.

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	NOTES	2007 £	2007 £	2007 £	2006 £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	2	109,442	136,873	246,315	229,707
Investment income - bank interest		1,200	-	1,200	1,568
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		110,642	136,873	247,515	231,275
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure:					
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	3	108,562	263,092	371,654	311,187
Management and administration of the charity	4	2,411	-	2,411	2,302
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		110,973	263,092	374,065	313,489
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR					
		(331)	(126,219)	(126,550)	(82,214)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST APRIL 2006					
		13,980	4,699,724	4,713,704	4,795,919
Transfers between funds	10	(28,573)	28,573		
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST MARCH 2007		(14,924)	4,602,078	4,587,154	4,713,704

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2007

		2007		2006	
		£	£	£	£
	NOTE				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	4,613,571		4,719,140	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Other debtors	8	16,835		15,571	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>52,945</u>		<u>76,726</u>	
		69,780		92,297	
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>96,197</u>		<u>97,733</u>	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)			(26,417)		(5,436)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>4,587,154</u>		<u>4,713,704</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Unrestricted funds			(14,924)		13,980
Restricted funds	10		<u>4,602,078</u>		<u>4,699,724</u>
			<u>4,587,154</u>		<u>4,713,704</u>

Our highlights!

Mir

I am most proud of our first residency publication which received many positive comments and, I think, for the first time highlighted how much we do and achieve every year. The publication features the work of our first 6 artists in residence and includes extracts from our associated education and outreach projects as well as our professional development events. Amanda Jones from Esmée Fairbairn emailed us to say:

'A quick note to congratulate you on the publication documenting the pilot years of the residency programme. We see a wide range of publications as you might imagine, but this one really stands out in terms of both content and design. Well done!'

Rachael

A highlight for me was the screening of Derek Lodge's film. Derek worked with a wonderful mix of people whilst he was doing his residency in Sheffield and made a film and 7 songs about his time here. We showed it 3 times on the night we celebrated Persistence Works' 5th anniversary. When we visited China this year we showed a clip from Derek's film at one of the artists/curators networking events and people just started to dance spontaneously. It proved to me that art can cross boundaries and speak to all.

Kate

Without doubt securing the Thrive! Funding. It is so exciting to be at the beginning of a new chapter in the Society's development with the prospect of being able to provide more studio space to the growing number of artists and makers in the region and to raise awareness of the sector locally and nationally.

Viv

My highlight has to be the success of November '06 Open Studios as the event epitomises the aims and objectives of Yorkshire ArtSpace Society. It is one of the rare opportunities for the public to visit all of Persistence Works and see the breadth of creative activity of space holders and the organisation. We ran workshops and guided tours that encouraged new audiences. The weekend was also immensely popular within the building as it encourages a real sense of community and purpose. As one of our space holders, Anna Childs, puts it:

"There's a real party atmosphere and the effort that everyone makes really pays off."

Stuart

My highlight was Yorkshire ArtSpace achieving a positive cash flow at the end of the year for the first time in Persistence Works. On a personal note I was voted sexiest male member of staff for the 2nd year running!

Anita

I would have to say that my highlight is having a place in a team of people who are all fantastic at what they do, in a vibrant environment full of creative people where every day is different.

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

Persistence Works, 21 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

0114 276 1769 (tel and fax) **info@artspace.org.uk** (e-mail) **www.artspace.org.uk**
Registered Charity No. 1049370, Company Registration No. 303 4923, VAT No. 737719009