

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

# Annual Report

# 2007-2008



Detail '*Raven Plateau*' - Samantha Donnelly. Reception exhibition February 2008

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### **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 and seven members of staff.

## **Foreword**

*I am pleased to be writing my second Chair's foreword for the Yorkshire ArtSpace Annual Report and would like to start with heartfelt thanks to Surriya Falconer as Deputy Chair and the rest of the Board members for their continued support for the successes of the Society over the last 12 months.*

*Yorkshire ArtSpace offers so much more than you might imagine from the outside. The last 12 months has convinced me about 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 impressed by the Artist in Residence Programme that offers the chance for all of us to meet a wide range of engaging artists and this year we had the privilege to host the first International Artist in Residence from the People's Republic of China. The success of this programme along with steady progress with the growth of our Open Studios events are two of the highlights of this report.*

*The Society is 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. An Independent Demand study funded by 'Thrive' clearly confirmed the need for additional Artists' workspace. The Housing Market Renewal Programme has come to recognize the added value of Artists working in the neighborhoods. I am pleased to report good progress has been made in further development of Artists' studios in north Sheffield at Parson Cross. Plans are also being developed for restoration of traditional barns into Artists' workspace at Manor as part of wider regeneration programme. I am confident that within the next two years we will be able to add at least 30 additional studio spaces to our portfolio to allow greater opportunities, choice and flexibility.*

*The year also saw the Artists engaged in the development of our first Art Strategy. This will provide a framework for action for further business development.*

*This year saw changes in Board membership too as a result of our Governance review to ensure we kept our governance arrangements most up to date. We saw some Members stand down and we are very grateful for their invaluable contribution and we welcomed new Members with skills fit for our purpose.*

## **Narendra Bajaria, Chair**



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## Organisational Development

Much of our organisational development during 2007/08 was shaped by the Arts Council funded **Thrive!** project, with additional funding from Sheffield City Council to undertake a study looking at the potential for studios in **Housing Market Renewal** (HMR) areas. The Thrive! project moved from Testing Phase to Draft Business Case during 2007/08 and focused on the delivery of a number of advocacy events, the creation of new partnerships and the strengthening of internal resources all with the objective of securing additional studio space in the medium to long term. Progress during the period of this report is described under the four headings of our Vision Document – Secure, Engage, Involve and Develop.

### 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 June 2007 we were able to commission an independent **Demand Study** as part of the HMR report which showed a current need for 100+ studios with demand set to increase. The first steps to forging the partnerships that are needed to deliver new studios were made with an **Advocacy Event** for HMR officers later that month to present the proven demand and to introduce staff to studios – and artists! - often for the first time. Following the event, 28 potential sites were identified across all 3 HMR areas with seven shortlisted for greater analysis. By the end of the period of this report two of the seven shortlisted projects were being taken forward as **new-build developments** with project partners SOAR in Parson Cross and Green Estate at Manor Oaks.

### Engage

Our Programme continued to go from strength to strength with our **first international artist in residence** arriving from the People's Republic of China, an unimaginable occurrence only a few years ago. As Part of the Thrive! project we made plans to put artists in residence in **Sheffield Town Hall** for the first time, to win the hearts and minds of councilors and staff alike. We held 13 **exhibitions** at Persistence Works which attracted over 5,000 visitors. We delivered 266 **education sessions** to 1,604 participants from age 5 upwards.

### Involve

As well as engaging with members through the Thrive! project we established new communication routes at the AGM in February 2008 and took the first steps towards a major consultation with members as part of the development of our first Arts Strategy. We sent out 6,219 **free e-newsletters** during 2007/08.

### Develop

The Director remained a Trustee of **the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers**, supporting the first annual conference in Bristol in October 2007, and a member of Sheffield City Council's **Culture Board** with special interest in HMR and culture. Following a review of the roles and responsibilities of **Board** members in January 2008, those members who had studios, or who had partners with studios, were advised to step down. Plans were made to replace their skills promptly in line with the existing job descriptions. This was a very challenging year for the **staff team** with Viv on long term sick leave and Rachael taking a rather earlier than planned maternity leave. Jo Nancarrow was taken on as Programme Administrator to support Mir during Rachael's maternity leave. Karen Lydiat offered temporary reception cover although much of the burden was taken on by Anita and Stuart. Thankfully, through the Thrive! project we were able to appoint an HR consultant to advise us.

**Kate Dore, Director**

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## The year's activities

### The Residency Programme

In this period we hosted artists' residencies and staged two exhibition projects. Additional education and outreach projects and artists' professional development activities complemented these projects.

#### Robin Close *'Acting Up'*

Exhibition, April 2007

Robin was artist in residence in the Summer of 2006 and we offered him the opportunity to stage a 4 week exhibition at Persistence Works with curatorial support from **JJ Charlesworth**. Robin showed a new video work and series of drawings, developed from the residency period in the previous year.



Robin Close, *'Acting Up'* details his installation in April 2007 at Persistence Works

#### Humberto Velez, *Art(ists) & Social Function*

Humberto was our 5<sup>th</sup> artist in residence from June to August 2007. Because funding proposals were unsuccessful, we offered a placement opportunity to 1 artist who assisted Humberto on the making of his film. Humberto worked with two amateur boxers who performed a physical dialogue, using the Park Hill housing estate as backdrop and inspiration. A text was written by playwright **Sonia Hughes**. The film was shown during the 2007 Open Studios event at Persistence Works.

APD event: **Artists and the Social Context**, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Speakers: **Ruth Ben-Tovim** from Encounters, **David Harding OBE**, founder of the Art & Environment course at Glasgow School of Art and **Jason E Bowman**, arts consultant. Chaired by **Lesley Sanderson**. The event gave a historical overview of social context practice, case studies of projects undertaken and information on best practice. Full transcript can be downloaded from our website. 23 artists attended event

#### KanXuan

Our first international artist in residence project was supported by Arts Council England International Fellowship Award. We collaborated with Sheffield Contemporary Art Forum on selecting an artist from PR China. After a lengthy and complex selection process, working closely with SCAF co-curator Jan Verwoert and SKA Culture Shanghai we selected the artist Kan Xuan. Xuan was based at Persistence Works between 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and developed a new work ' which was

subsequently shown in Art Sheffield 08's 'Yes, No, Other Options' citywide contemporary art event (February to end of March 2008). A text was written by art historian and Art Sheffield 08 co-curator **Jan Verwoert**.

### **KanXuan 'A Pound'**

Exhibition, Feb-March 2008 (as part of Art Sheffield 08 'YES, NO & OTHER OPTIONS') During her residency Kan Xuan worked on her exhibition piece 'A Pound', which was an extension of a project begun in Beijing the previous year. Xuan bought 300 items from the Pound shop on the Moor in Sheffield and created a slide show. She showed this new piece alongside two existing pieces in the Public Art Space at Persistence Works. Over 2000 attended the exhibition over a period of 6 weeks.

In conjunction with the international residency and Art Sheffield 08 we ran a placement project where we trained 5 emerging artists to deliver guided tours of contemporary visual art. We worked with Sheila McGregor (Chair of SCAF), Jan Verwoert (co-curator of SCAF) and Helena Tomlin (arts education specialist). The 5 selected artists attended a workshop session and were given the opportunity to lead 2 tours each for which they were paid.

APD: Symposium - (supported by APD National Steering Group) was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February. 100 people from around the UK attended the event. Main speakers: **Jan Verwoert**, **Deimantas Narkevičius**, **Babak Affrasiabi** and **Irit Rogoff**. Break out sessions were lead by **Stephen Beddoe** and **Russel Martin** (ArtQuest), **Jeanine Griffin** (SCAF) and **Katy Woods**, **Babak Affrasiabi**, **Nasrin Tabatabai** and **Cylena Simonds** (Iniva). The Symposium was co-funded by the National APD Network, SCAF and YAS.



Kan Xuan, 'A Pound' shown at Persistence Works as part of Art Sheffield 08

### **The Starter Studio Programme**

#### **For Visual Artists**

Mike MacGabhann and David Garratt started in September 2006. They will complete the programme in September 2008. David exhibited in the Reception area of Persistence Works in January 2008 where he showed his 'celebrity postcard' project. David wrote 1000 personal letters, enclosing a signed postcard of himself, to celebrities in the world of fashion, sport, tv and film asking them to reply with a signed photograph of themselves. (*Image Wall of Fame*)

### **For Silversmiths**

Maya Selway and Victoria Delany completed their 2 year programme in September 2007. Maya was awarded the prestigious Crafts Council Development Award and set up her studio at Cockpit Arts in London. Victoria took the opportunity to stay on for a further year.

Rebecca Joselyn and Sarah Denny started in September 2006 and will complete September 2008. Rebecca was awarded Best Newcomer at the Harrogate Trade Fair, awarded by Crafts and Design Magazine. Sarah won Goldsmith's silver award and collaborated with Chris Knight and Owen Waterhouse on the St. Ledger Trophy commission. Both are destined for lucrative careers in the silversmithing sector.

Christina Spencer and Sarah Stevenson started in September 2007 and are due to complete their programme in September 2009. Christina won the Lord Mayor's civic plate commission in November 2007 and both were awarded the Little Gems commission in March 2008 paid for the Sheffield Assay Office.

The learning & Skills Council support (via ESF – Objective 1) ended in March 2008. Sheffield Assay Office is continuing to sponsor the programme with additional support from Sheffield Town Trust and occasional support from the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London.



Rebecca Joselyn, Fruit Basket



Sarah Denny, Vessel 1

### **Starting Out 2007**

This popular programme ran from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007. 18 places were taken up. Financial support was provided by Arts Council Yorkshire through G4A and the Learning & Skills Council through the European Social Fund objective 1. 20 people attended this course.

### **1-2-1 Surgeries**

#### **APD**

11 surgery sessions for 3 visual artists/makers took place during the 07-08 year with advice on funding applications, marketing strategies, portfolio & career development, 'general business health' checks.

### **Education & Outreach**

5 surgery sessions for visual artists/makers with advice on working within the Education/Outreach sector.

## Exhibitions and Events



*Oh, isn't celebrity a terrible thing, thank God, David Garrett, January 2008*

### **Exhibition Programme in the Reception Area**

In March '07 the Curatorial Committee extended the call for exhibition proposals from artists and craft makers living and working within a hundred mile radius of Sheffield. Proposals were received from external applicants as well as the Society's membership and Starter Studio participants. This allowed a greater degree of choice, diversification and promotion for the exhibition programme at Persistence Works, and runs parallel to the ongoing aim of encouraging a broader range of visitors to the exhibitions.

### **April '07: *There's no such thing as flat*, Peter Griffiths**

50 people attended Peter's private view and a further 105 visited the exhibition. The show featured vinyl imagery.

### **May-June '07: *Metalwork & Jewellery Degree Show*, Sheffield Hallam Uni students**

During the 17 days the show was open to the public it attracted 214 visitors and 120 guests attended the private view.

### **June '07: *Manasamitra***

A group show of paintings and ceramics inspired by Bollywood films coinciding with Sheffield's International Indian Film Academy awards festivities). Manasamitra attracted 352 visitors and a further 110 guests attended the private view.

### **July '07: *Voyage*- Carol Lambert**

An exhibition of paintings, drawings and mono-prints. A total of 240 people saw Carol's work at Yorkshire Artspace.

### **August '07: *Divertimenta*, Susan Bank**

This exhibition of abstract paintings had 96 visitors.

### **September '07- *Wearables*, Lucy Coyne**

Costumes and jewellery made from recycled floristry materials. Lucy's exhibition attracted 50 people to the private view and a further 181 came to see the exhibition.

**October '07: *Medium***

A photographic show from Manchester based Medium group. Over 200 people visited the group show during this exhibition

**November- December '07: *EXIT 2***

Starter Studio silversmiths Victoria Delany and Maya Selway's exit exhibition which was open for a total of 36 working days and had 225 visitors.

**January '08: *Oh, isn't celebrity a terrible thing, thank God, David Garrett***

150 people attended the private view and a further 221 enjoyed David Garrett's take on Celebrity.

**February '08: *Raven Plateau - Samantha Donnelly***

An installation exhibition that took place alongside Art Sheffield 08 (AS08), a city-wide contemporary art festival which included Kan Xuan's work in the Public Art Space. Over 400 people saw the work during AS08's opening night, and there were 372 visitors in the run of the show.

**March '08: *Wasted Light, Stephen Connell***

A solo photography exhibition also took place alongside Art Sheffield 08. Over 500 people visited the exhibition, and 180 more saw the work as part of a gallery crawl organised as part of the AS08 festival.

**Public Art Space**

Bookings of the Public Art Space continued to be high during 2007-2008 with a good proportion of the year devoted to housing the Artist in Residence programme (see above). Other bookings include the annual Metalwork & Jewellery Degree Show from students of Sheffield Hallam University, an external exhibition and the welcome return of Philip Thomas and his experimental piano concerts in January '08.

**Open Studios**

For the annual city-wide Open Up Sheffield event spaceholders at Persistence Works opened their studio doors on Saturdays 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May '07 to almost 400 visitors. Our own Open Studios took place over the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007 with 33 open studios attracting 460 visitors who took part in a number of contemporary artists' tours and film screenings.

**Rachael Dodd, Programme Manager, Education and Outreach**

**Mir Jansen, Programme Manager, Artists' Professional Development**

**Viv Mager, Receptionist**

**Jo Nancarrow, temporary Programme Administrator**

**and with thanks to Anita Lloyd for her support in Viv's absence**

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## Premises

### Persistence Works - Spaces

In the absence of any potential capital funding it was agreed not to pursue a major refurbishment of the Public Art Space. As a result of poor response to advertising the availability of the Education Space the Board is considering the conversion of the space to a full time studio.

### Persistence Works - Maintenance and Safety

As a result of damage to, and subsequent concerns over the safety of, the glass wall at the front of the building an action plan was devised in consultation with our H & S and Building Consultants, Robin Clark and James Mooney, to remove the cast glass panels. The wall will then be made tidy by removing the toughened glass, stripping out the current debris and replacing the toughened glass covered by vinyl.

A major push was made to ensure the individual spaces, as well as communal spaces at Persistence Works, met the new fire regulations effective from October 2006. Individual fire risk assessments were performed in medium to high risk studios. In June 2007 we introduced and enforced of the new smoke free building regulations.

We continued to increase space charge to contribute to a Building Maintenance Fund/Sinking Fund. This reserve is critical to the organisation's ability to maintain the building going forward when major repairs are required.

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## 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.

	<b>Receipts(£k)</b>	<b>Payments(£k)</b>	<b>Difference(£k)</b>
<i>Premises</i>	136	134	2
<i>Programme</i>	148	148	0
<i>Organisation</i>	16	17	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1</b>

### 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 and signed on its behalf by Narendra Bajaria. 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 2008**

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	NOTES	2008 £	2008 £	2008 £	2007 £
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
-generated from funds					
Investment Income	2	99	-	99	1200
- generated from charitable activities					
Support & promotion of arts/crafts	3	126,173	186,762	312,935	246,315
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>126,272</u>	<u>186,762</u>	<u>313,034</u>	<u>247,515</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>					
Support and promotion of arts and Crafts	4	135,639	291,207	426,846	371,654
<b>Governance Costs</b>	5	<u>2,230</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,230</u>	<u>2,411</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<u>137,869</u>	<u>291,207</u>	<u>429,076</u>	<u>374,065</u>
<b>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		(11,597)	(104,445)	(116,042)	(126,550)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>		(14,924)	4,602,078	4,587,154	4,713,704
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>		<u>(25,521)</u>	<u>4,497,633</u>	<u>4,471,112</u>	<u>4,587,154</u>

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY

**YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2008**

	NOTE	2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	9		4,509,827		4,613,571
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors within 1 year	10	18,183		16,835	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>79,079</u>		<u>52,945</u>	
		97,262		69,780	
<b>CREDITORS:</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(132,977)</u>		<u>(96,197)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)</b>					
			(35,715)		(26,417)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			<u>4,471,112</u>		<u>4,587,154</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>					
Unrestricted funds			(26,521)		(14,924)
Restricted funds	13		<u>4,497,633</u>		<u>4,602,078</u>
			<u>4,471,112</u>		<u>4,587,154</u>

### **Our highlights!**

“The contrast between the first advocacy meeting that we held for HMR officers in June 2007 and the results of the call for suggested sites was stunning. At the first meeting, where we introduced the idea of artists’ studios as a tool for regeneration and public benefit, the majority of those attending seemed at best nonplussed and at worst openly hostile about the financial feasibility. With support from Eventus (the two-pronged attack!) and further work from us, the same people proceeded to inundate us with potential sites and every HMR area wanted a studio development on their patch.”

**Kate**

“One of the many highlights for the programme was our hosting of our first international residency with artist Kan Xuan from PR China. After an interesting selection process, collaborating with Sheffield Contemporary Art Forum and their appointed curator, the German art historian/critic Jan Verwoert, as well as our overseas partner SKA Culture Shanghai, we appointed Xuan. Working with her for 3 months proved a real pleasure. Xuan developed a great new piece of work which she showed as part of Art Sheffield 08. It brought in a record number of visitors at the opening night. The work has subsequently been shown in her home country”.

**Mir**

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YORKSHIRE **ARTSPACE** SOCIETY

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