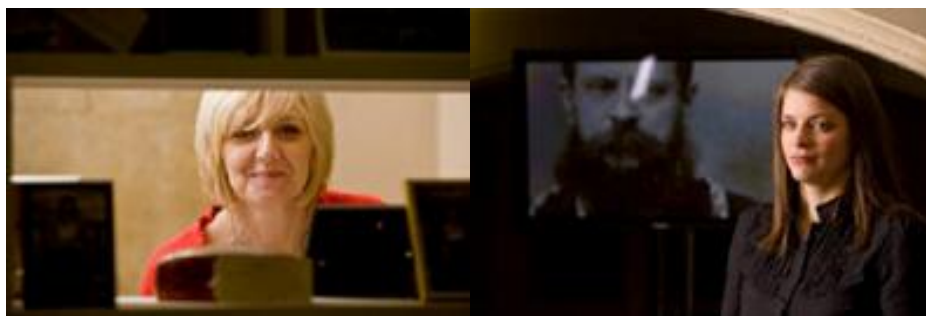




Yorkshire Artspace

Annual Report 2008-2009



Trish O'Shea and Katie Davies, our artists in residence at Sheffield Town Hall
Photos by Carl Rose

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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 2005, 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

Welcome to Yorkshire Artspace's Annual Report for 2008/09, marking the Society's 31st birthday and my third year as Chair. Reading through the report, and the staff's highlights of the year, I have noticed a recurring theme of successful communication.

Many of the opportunities to improve and extend our communication have been supported by our Thrive! Organisational Development activities, a unique programme that enables organisations to fulfil their potential by funding thinking and talking time, professional expertise and development activities. We are very grateful to Arts Council England for creating such an inspiring and engaging funding opportunity.

Our relationship with Sheffield City Council, across staff, officers and members, has been greatly enhanced through the Town Hall Artists in Residence programme. This programme has supported a better understanding of artists and their work and also sent an important message out to artists that their work is valued and recognised by the local authority.

The introduction of pre-Board meetings each quarter has brought together the membership and Board in a relaxed and informative atmosphere that has resulted in a better mutual understanding. In addition, the staff has been given the opportunity to sound out ideas in an open forum and to feed back on significant developments.

I come finally to our greatest ever consultation exercise, The Talking Tablecloths Café. With a full menu of events that invited comment and discussion within the organisation and supported a dialogue with key stakeholders and partners from outside, the Café has given us plenty of direction for the future as well as confirmation of past success.

I would like to thank all the members and Board members that have given their time to talk and to listen and to be involved this year, and to thank the hard-working staff members for enabling these conversations to happen.

This report sees us on the brink of exciting new developments in 2009/10 with three new studio buildings under development which will expand the number of studios spaces that we offer from 68 to 110.

Narendra Bajaria, Chair

Our 2008/09 Highlights!

My highlight was our very successful artist in residence programme at Sheffield Town Hall with artists **Trish O’Shea** and **Katie Davies**, culminating in a screening at the Showroom Cinema and an exhibition in the Town Hall foyer.

“I have to say that the choice of personalities (both Trish and Katie) was excellent. They are both very easy to work with, very understanding of limitations but also very astute on how to conduct themselves within this environment. There really was a mutual trust between us and them.”

Steve Clark, OD Manager (Safety & Employee Wellbeing), Sheffield City Council

Mir Jansen, Programme Manager

Our biggest ever consultation exercise ‘The Talking Tablecloths Café’ was enjoyable and informative in equal amounts. Not only was it wonderful to get such positive feedback on what we have been doing, we have also been able to tackle areas of improvement through the new Arts Strategy. Here are just some of the hundreds of comments from participants;

- “Yorkshire Artspace has been a constant and long may it continue. But also it doesn’t stand still or look back. The commitment to supporting artists is vital and appreciated”
- “I love my studio. It’s the best thing that I ever did, when I took the financial risk to come here”
- “Great, central, affordable workshop space. Working here increases my earning power as an artist considerably”
- “It’s amazing what you have achieved – looking at the time-line reminds me of all the hard work you have put in!”
- “The residency programme has been ambitious and has put Yorkshire Artspace on the UK map of ‘EXCELLENT ARTS ORGANISATIONS’. It has been able to build a national and international reputation for itself and that can only be good for anyone associated with Yorkshire Artspace as well”

Kate Dore, Director

Scheduling one hour pre-Board Meetings each quarter gave studio holders an opportunity to meet the Board and be consulted on key decisions. I contributed by volunteering to organise refreshments and baked homemade cakes and served tea and coffee. This really contributed towards both welcoming studio holders and Board and furthering the aim of the meetings which was cohesion and consultation. After discovering my talent for baking delicious cakes I ran a refreshments stall at the Open Studios event in November which again was warmly welcomed by the artists and the visitors to the building.

Anita Lloyd, Administrator

Having kept our finances and accounting on spreadsheets over the past 6 years we have now moved on to using Quick Books which suits our needs exactly and is used by our accountants. The system is much more efficient and makes all data and information easy to track and report. By using the system we have freed up time for me and Anita to work more closely together on all aspects of finance.

Stuart Wright, Operations Manager

One of the highlights of the year for me was the success of the November Open Studios event in terms of offering those attending a unique and enjoyable visitor experience. Persistence Works is such an impressive but large building, it's easy for visitors to get swallowed up. We wanted to create a hub or central point for visitors to congregate, relax, learn more and hopefully stay longer. We therefore transformed the Atrium of the building into a social space, with an information point, a café, an artists' shop and acoustic musicians playing live on the Friday evening. It was also a place of activity, with a meeting point for tours, and workshops led by artists. This created a lively and friendly welcome to visitors, reflected in the positive feedback from visitors and participating artists.

Jo Nancarrow, Programme Administrator
(support for Rachael Dodd's maternity leave)

Organisational Development

Development of the organisation was again encompassed by the Arts Council funded Thrive! Organisational Development project in its second year of implementation. The following activity took place during 2008/09:

- the development of an Arts Strategy
- a feasibility study on a temporary studio space opportunity adjacent to Persistence Works
- design development on Manor Oaks Studios with Green Estate, due to go on site in Summer 2009 and open Spring 2010
- design development on Knutton Road Studios with SOAR as part of a mixed use workspace scheme, due to go on site early 2010
- Artist in Residence advocacy project at Sheffield Town Hall
- mentoring week with WASPS in Scotland to learn about multi-site management
- developments in communications through a new temporary working towards the development of a Communication Strategy including a Public Benefit Survey looking at the individual activities of the Persistence Works spaceholders
- development of an IT Policy and ICT Active accreditation
- early work on a new Business Plan

Staff and Board

Recruitment to the Board was completed during this period with the following appointments;

- **Peter Wood**, continuing professional development
- **Paul Houghton**, financial
- **Sheila McGregor**, curatorial (nominated by the membership)
- **Tracey Heyes**, professional practice - craft (nominated by the membership)
- **Samantha Donnelly**, professional practice - fine art (nominated by the membership)

Pre-Board meetings, where members were invited to meet and discuss issues with Board members and staff, began in April 2008 and proved to be a great success. A summary of each Board meeting is now posted in every tea-point at Persistence Works.

Programme Manager **Rachael Dodd** made a smooth return to work following 12 months maternity leave in January 2009. **Jo Nancarrow**, who was supporting the maternity leave, was offered a 12 month contract, commencing January 2009, to develop a communications and audience development strategy. The staff team continued to rally to support the organisation through receptionist **Viv Mager's** phased return to work following a long period of sick leave and the Director's compassionate leave in early 2009.

Membership

The pre-Board meetings offered an excellent forum for constructive discussions around key developments.

- April 2008 – getting to know the Board members
- July 2008 – the Arts Strategy
- October 2008 - the new studio developments
- January 2009 – the new tenancy agreement

We also arranged mini-bus trips to the new studio sites for staff, Board and members.

Advocacy

The Director remained an active Trustee of the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers (NFASP) and presented the new neighbourhood studio developments to the annual conference in Bristol in October 2008 in partnership with Miranda Plowden of Sheffield Housing Market Renewal team. The Director remained an active member of Sheffield City Council's Culture Board with special interest in HMR and arts.

Kate Dore, Director

The year's activities

In 2008/09 we engaged over 5,000 people in our programme of activities and associated events at Persistence Works. From exhibitions to residencies, open studio events and public consultations, professional development surgeries and workshops, our programme continues to grow and flourish.

Arts Strategy Consultation Process

In July 2008, with initial advice from independent consultant Richard Watts, we carried out a comprehensive, 2-week long consultation process 'The Talking Tablecloths Café'.

This involved spaceholders, funders, partner organisation, and stakeholders as well as all staff and Board members in events as diverse as pub quizzes and dinner parties. The feedback and suggestions from everyone involved resulted in our Arts Strategy document which outlines our objectives for the

artistic programme for the next five years.



The Residency Programme

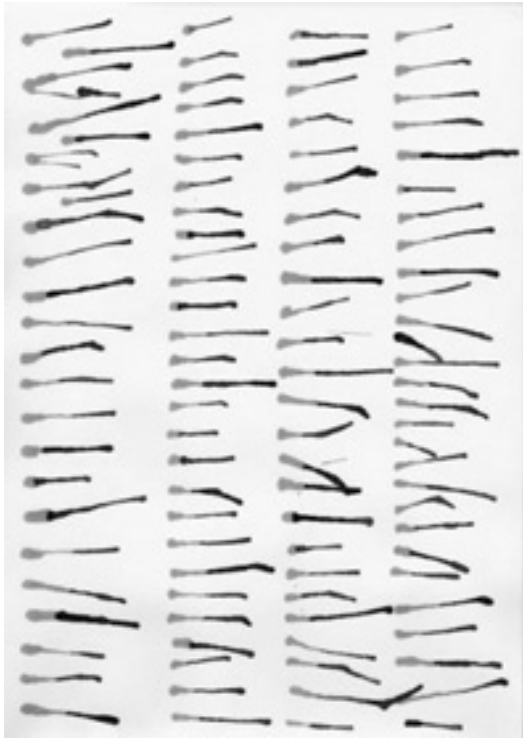
In February 2005 we launched our pilot Residency Programme, offering selected artists working in a variety of visual arts practices access to space, time and money to research and/or develop new work. The aims of the Residency Programme are to build a regional and national profile for the organisation, to provide a regular influx of artists to be based at Persistence Works for shorter periods – bringing new ideas and dynamism to the creative community and to work in partnerships with other organisations in Sheffield in order to pool resources and enable more ambitious projects to come to fruition.

In 2008 we ran two highly successful residencies in Sheffield Town Hall to create more awareness about artists, and the way they work, amongst our local politicians and council workers. The residencies resulted in two exhibitions, a public screening and public art workshops. We also hosted a residency with our partner organisation Sheffield Assay Office and Sheffield City Council's Off the Shelf Festival.

21 April- 13 June 08

Junko Mori

Residency focus: **Metalsmithing**



Drawing by Junko Mori

In collaboration with the Sheffield Assay Office we invited blacksmith/silversmith **Junko Mori** for a residency of 8 weeks. As well as having her own studio space at Persistence Works, Junko had access to the equipment in silversmith starter workshop. Junko developed ideas for a new range of jewellery as well as a design for a public artwork for the new Sheffield Assay Office in Hillsborough. This work was subsequently commissioned by Sheffield Assay Office and, after a temporary display in the Winter Garden as part of Galvanize Sheffield, it is now permanently on display at Guardians' Hall on Beulah Road.

In conjunction with the residency we organised a masterclass where Junko taught TIG welding and forging over 2 days to 6 participants.

In conjunction with Galvanize Sheffield 2008, we organised a further Professional Development seminar entitled 'What's in it for Us?' focusing on silversmiths and their work nationally and internationally.

In April 2008 we began advertising a residency opportunity for Sheffield-based artists only. Permission was granted by Sheffield City Council to allow 2 visual artists access to the environment of the Town Hall, each for a period of 8 weeks. This project helped us to strengthen the relationship with the City Council in the run-up to two new studio projects in two different Sheffield neighbourhoods – Parson Cross and Manor Oaks. For our first residency we chose artist **Trish O'Shea**.

7 July – 29 August 08

Trish O'Shea

Residency focus: **Engagement with Sheffield City Council**

Trish's arts practice very much involves people and the places where they work or live and she spent 8 weeks at Sheffield Town Hall working directly with people based in different departments. She also invited the general public in for guided tours and asked them to bring a 'gift' for the Town Hall with a little bit of information on why they thought this gift was appropriate.

To increase the connectivity we organised guided tours of Persistence Works for City Council employees and members (pictured) along with drop-in workshops. In addition, members of staff took part in a spoon forging workshop with **Victoria Delany** and printmaking workshops with **Neil Woodall**.



Photography © Carl Rose

Trish showed her work in progress during a Public Event at the end of her residency on 12 September 2008 and finalised pieces, the cabinet of gifts and her personal journal, were on display in a 2-week exhibition in the foyer of the Town Hall in February 2009.

6 Oct – 28 Nov 2008

Katie Davies

Residency focus: **Engagement with Sheffield City Council**



Photography © Katie Davies

Katie wanted to use her 8 weeks to make a high definition film, specifically focusing on the citizenship ceremonies that have been taking place at the Town Hall for the last 6 years. Katie talked about her work with writer Emma Cocker during a Public Screening of her film 'Commonwealth' at the Showroom Cinema on 13 February 2009. The film was on public display during the Town Hall foyer exhibition from 6th to 20th February 2009.

2 Feb – 28 March 2009

Robert Casselton Clark

Our final residency of this year was with artist **Robert Casselton Clark**. Initially this was a collaboration with Off the Shelf festival of reading and writing with the aim to design a new art/text work for the front glass wall of Persistence Works, which would then be commissioned as this year's Text and the City commission. Robert developed his ideas and presented his design for the front wall on 2nd April 2009.



Work in progress – Robert Casselton Clark

The Starter Studio Programme for Silversmiths

Over the last 8 years we have supported 15 ambitious and talented designer silversmiths to kick-start their careers in a fully equipped silversmith workshop at Persistence Works. We are proud of the fact that 90% of the silversmiths who have completed the programme have set up their own workshop and continue to earn a living from their practice. **Stefan Tooke**, **Charlotte Tollyfield** and **Anne Davis** started the programme in September 2008. **Sarah Stevenson** and **Christina Spencer** who started in September 2007 showed their work in 'Little

Gems 4' during Galvanize Sheffield 2008, exhibited in the specially designed showcase in the foyer of the Millennium Galleries. **Rebecca Joselyn** and **Sarah Denny** showed their work in EXIT 3 at Persistence Works during Galvanize Sheffield 2008. The programme is supported by Sheffield Assay Office, Sheffield Town Trust and Sheffield Burgesses Trust.



Salt and Pepper Ring Pull by Rebecca Joselyn

1-2-1 Surgeries

Our experienced staff and Board members offer free monthly surgery sessions to visual artists/makers with advice on funding applications, marketing strategies, portfolio & career development and general business health checks. In 2008/09 a total of 30 artists benefited from the surgery sessions.

Exhibitions and Events

The exhibition programme at Persistence Works is overseen by a voluntary Curatorial Committee. During 2008/9 two new members joined the curatorial committee to address the balance of a largely visual arts focused committee: **Owen Waterhouse**, a silversmith based at Persistence Works, and **Rowena Hamilton**, Crafts Curator at Museums:Sheffield. The programme of exhibitions showcases work by emerging and established visual artists and makers based at Yorkshire Artspace and beyond. It has also supported other areas of the programme, such as the Residency Programme and Starter Studio Programme for Designer Silversmiths with the annual Exit show. There was a diverse spread of media and artforms shown during 2008/09 which appealed to a wide range of new and existing audiences. Ten exhibitions took place over the year, each accompanied by an opening event, and as a whole the programme attracted over 2000 visitors.

A brief summary of the Exhibition Programme is as follows:

- **March/April: Gary James Williams: *In Transience – incidents & interventions.***
A new body of work inspired by a 3-week residency at a prosthetic laboratory in the Netherlands, by an artist working at Bankley Studios in Manchester.
- **April/ May: Mike MacGabhann: *Mimeograph***
An exhibition of drawings and prints by an artist based at Persistence Works on the visual arts Starter Studio Programme, exploring ideas around the reproduction and remaking of the film image.
- **May/June: Metalwork & Jewellery Degree Show**
A showcase of work developed by those on the Metalwork and Jewellery course at Sheffield Hallam University. Supported by the Assay Office.
- **June /July: Salvatore Fiorello**
A painter based at Bloc Studios in Sheffield, exploring the nature of CCTV and urban landscapes.
- **July/August: Penny Klepuszewska: *Living Arrangements***
This photographic exhibition by Yorkshire artist Penny Klepuszewska has won a number of prestigious awards and has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

- August/September: **Trish O'Shea: *In Progress***
An exhibition of work in progress by our Artist in Residence at the Sheffield Town Hall.
- September/October: **Gillian Brent: *Thicket***
A sculptural installation of tall steel objects, referring to the 'urban forest' of signage, cctv, street lighting, mobile phone and tv masts etc that fills our modern environment, by a Persistence Works based artist.
- November /December: **Sarah Denny and Rebecca Joselyn: *Exit 3***
A joint exhibition by two up-and-coming silversmiths based at Persistence Works, which formed part of the Galvanize 2008, a festival of contemporary metal design and innovation.
- January/February: **Clinton de Menezes: *Probe***
The first solo show in the UK by Clinton de Menezes, who emigrated from South Africa to the UK a year and a half ago.
- March: **Reworking**
A show around the concept of 'work' by emerging artists and curatorial collective who have grown out of Goldsmiths, London.



'Probe' Exhibition, Clinton de Menezes

Open Studios

Two open studios events took place this year, one on Saturday 26 April which was part of 'Open Up' Sheffield South Yorkshire, an annual event that celebrates artists in the region. This was largely promoted as part of the Open Up programme, 33 artists took part and the event attracted 276 visitors to Persistence Works.



The annual Persistence Works Open Studios event took place on the evening of Friday 21 November and during the day of Saturday 22 November. 51 artists took part in the event, which was accompanied by a parallel programme of events and activities to make use of Persistence Works' Atrium as an information point and meeting space (pictured). This included artist-led tours, origami and printmaking workshops, a market stall selling artists' work, a café and musical entertainment on the Friday evening. Supported by additional funding from the advocacy stream of the *Thrive!* OD programme the event was promoted via 8,000 leaflets, posters, a banner for the outside of the building and an email campaign. Over the weekend we had 814 visitors.

Mir Jansen and Rachael Dodd, Programme Managers

Viv Mager, Receptionist

Jo Nancarrow, temporary Programme Administrator/Communications and Audience Development Co-ordinator

and with special thanks to **Anita Lloyd** and **Gillian Robertson** for their support in Viv's absence

Premises

New Tenancy Agreement

Our new Tenancy Agreement was circulated for discussion, based on the template for a new 'industry standard' agreement from the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers (NFASP).

Glass Wall

Plans improve the appearance of the wall following the removal of the condemned artwork by Jeff Bell continued to be delayed due to a lack of budget and reliance on volunteers to complete the work. However, during this period plans were developed to use the site for a temporary artwork through the Artist in Residence programme.

Building Maintenance Fund

A modest increase in studio rents continued to contribute to the Building Maintenance Fund to provide confidence in our ability to maintain a high quality building. During this period the fund covered £5,000 for the replacement of the sump pumps, £3,000 to replace the pulley system in the lift and £4,000 to replace the mechanism in the roller shutter door.

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 understanding of our day to day finances. These accounts look at the separate areas of our activity – Premises, Programme, Organisation and the Thrive Organisational Development Programme. This enables us to see how each of these areas is meeting its costs.

	Receipts(£k)	Payments(£k)	Difference(£k)
<i>Premises</i>	<i>£120</i>	<i>£116</i>	<i>£4</i>
<i>Programme</i>	<i>£127</i>	<i>£127</i>	<i>£-</i>
<i>Organisation</i>	<i>£20</i>	<i>£20</i>	<i>£-</i>
<i>Thrive</i>	<i>£55</i>	<i>£55</i>	<i>£-</i>
Total	£322	£318	£4

Stuart Wright, Operations Manager

The following summary of financial statements on pages 14 - 15 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 Bajarla. 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 summarised 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 LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	NOTES	2009 £	2009 £	2009 £	2008 £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
INCOMING RESOURCES					
-generated from funds					
Investment Income	2	468	-	468	99
- generated from charitable activities					
Support & promotion of arts/crafts	3	<u>122,119</u>	<u>201,675</u>	<u>323,794</u>	<u>312,935</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>122,587</u>	<u>201,675</u>	<u>324,262</u>	<u>313,034</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure:					
Support and promotion of arts and Crafts	4	114,966	295,376	410,342	426,846
Governance Costs	5	<u>2,620</u>	-	<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,230</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>117,586</u>	<u>295,376</u>	<u>412,962</u>	<u>429,076</u>
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		5,001	(93,701)	(88,700)	(116,042)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds brought forward		(26,521)	4,497,633	4,471,112	4,587,154
Total Funds carried forward		<u><u>(21,520)</u></u>	<u><u>4,403,932</u></u>	<u><u>4,382,412</u></u>	<u><u>4,471,112</u></u>

YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2009

		2009		2008	
		£	£	£	£
	NOTE				
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9		4,411,287		4,509,827
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors within 1 year	10	20,103		18,183	
Cash at bank and in hand		63,274		79,079	
		83,377		97,262	
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(112,252)		(132,977)	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)			(28,875)		(35,715)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			4,382,412		4,471,112
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Unrestricted funds			(21,520)		(26,521)
Restricted funds	14		4,403,932		4,497,633
			4,382,412		4,471,112

Yorkshire Artspace Society Limited
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