

startle

startle provide high quality and experiential approaches to the arts. In partnership with our host organisation *The Beetroot Tree Gallery*, we organise, commission and promote interactive arts events, workshops and exhibitions. We are committed to making the visual arts accessible to the community, increasing our audiences' awareness and understanding, and challenging perceptions as to the place and function of arts in society. Designed with collaborating artists we seek to invigorate the lives of local people and to participate in the arts culture of the region.

Established in 2002/3 **startle** sought to develop the exciting programme of work at *The Beetroot Tree*. The gallery has had a longstanding commitment to the local community, reaching beyond its remit as a private gallery to include educational workshops and alternative modes of experiencing art and performance. For example story telling performances by Barney George, poetry readings by local writer David Wood, interactive music performances by Aware and exhibition / workshops with Jan Niedojadlo.

As an independent organisation **startle** have received regular funding from Arts Council England, the Lottery and private sponsorship from local businesses. We provide a dynamic, varied and focused programme of activities, from educational workshops for all ages to contemporary and experimental performances by artists of national repute. **startle** also is a member of the Community Volunteer Service.



'The children really enjoyed the atmosphere of the gallery and many had their opinions of art changed' (Teacher, Sawley School)

'Amazing Structure, full of deep meaning... thankyou for sharing this work with us' (Visitor to Tsunami by Michelle Heon)

*'Inspirational'
(Visitor to Ghosts and Shadows by Sue Jarman and Dave Wood)*

'The content was great – all the children were extremely enthusiastic and engaged fully – lovely resources' (Teacher - Draycott Primary)

Projects coordinated by **startle** include:



Contemporary Installations:

- **Video Installation Series (2002)** - A series of contemporary video installations by emerging and established artists, including 'The Collection' by foreign bodies dance.
- **Off-the-Wall** - an ongoing series of large-scale installations, with associated workshops by national and international artists.

So far in this series we have had the pleasure of presenting the following works:

Podules by Jan Niedojadlo (Nov, 2003)

Threshold : Fleshfold by Vida Midgelow & Brendon O'Connor, with Robert Wilsmore (April, 2004)

Ghosts and Shadows by Sue Jarman & Dave Wood (Nov, 2004)

Tsunami by Michelle Heon (Nov, 2004)

Still Rain by Tom Williams, Derek Attenburrow & Vida Midgelow (Nov, 2005)



Child focused events:

- An annual series of summer workshops for children
Around the World (2003)
Around the Universe (2004)
Summer Art Workshops (2005)
- ***Tree Dressing*** (2004) - A week long celebration of trees with a series of wire and bead workshops for schools
- ***Young @ Art Exhibitions*** (2004 & 2005) – An open entry exhibition for young people



Annual Arts Festival:

- ***Arts and Gardens Festival***, Draycott Village, (May Bank holiday, 2004)
- ***Arts at Home*** – Draycott Village, (May Bank holiday, 2005)



Audience / Participants:

Over the last few years literally hundreds of young people and adults have enjoyed our events – for example our week-long Tree Dressing Celebration, delivered by resident artist Alys Midgellow-Marsden, benefited over 300 children!

We attract a wide range of visitors / participants from local, regional and national locations, from the very young to the elderly, and from the non-specialist to the highly specialist art and performance goer. Whilst mainly of our activities are open to the general public, we also work with particular groups and provide arts experiences for targeted audiences. Regular groups include:

Schools / Colleges:

Draycott Community Primary

Long Eaton School

Sawley Primary

Friesland Secondary School

Firfield School

Greendale School

Dagfa House

Jubilee House

Alderman Pounder

Derby University

Play schemes / groups from Draycott, Breaston, White House Nursery, Discovery Nursery

Other regular groups: Derby Community Support, Education Otherwise

Looking to the future:

Continuing our high quality contemporary art and workshop provision we seek to:

Undertake targeted audience development, offering specialist arts provision, in the following areas:

- Family focused events
- Cross generation activities
- Focused events for women

Establish partnerships and locate our work as a key local and regional art provider:

- Building local and regional partnerships with Borough and County Councils, Educational providers, Arts organisations, Volunteer networks, the local and regional community, etc.

startle Board:

The organisation is directed by a highly experienced board, the membership of which is voluntary. The board oversees artistic policy, finance and equal opportunities. Professional arts managers / administrators are commissioned to carry out individual projects, with the assistance of the team at the *Beetroot Tree*.

Current Board Members: Stevie Davies, Vida Midgelow (chair), Alys Midgelow-Marsden. (*If you are interested in joining the board and contributing to **startle** and the community please contact us*).

Contact Us:

startle

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Past and Current Events

Child focused events:

Around the World

Summer 2003

Children between the ages of 5-12 are invited to join us during the summer holidays to go 'Around the World'. Building a large-scale world map children will paint, model and draw. Create 3D models and let your imagination go wild around Africa, America, Asia and anywhere else your dreams take you!

Led by experienced artists and teachers Robert Daniels and Rebecca Stoner these workshops are designed to be fun, creative and just a little messy!!

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Arts Council England Lottery

Around the Universe

Summer 2004

Children between the ages of 5-12 are invited to join us during the summer holidays to go 'Around the Universe'. Building a large-scale universe children will paint, model and draw. From planets to rockets, stars to aliens these workshops will spark the imagination.

This event follows on from the success of last years 'Around the World' of which participants said: 'It was so good I want to come again' and 'I really enjoyed today, I would do it all over again!'

Led by experienced artists and teachers Robert Daniels and Rebecca Stoner these workshops are designed to be fun, creative and just a little messy!!

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Arts Council England Lottery

Young @ Art Exhibitions

Feb 2004 and 2005

See the world from a younger point of view!

Young @ Art is an annual exhibition of bright, dynamic and fresh art by and for children between 7 and 16. This open exhibition celebrates the artistic talent of our local young people, displaying their work in a professional context and setting the seeds for a life of pleasure in the visual arts.

Local schools, groups and individuals are invited to enter work.

Summer Art Workshops

Summer 2005

Three weeks of workshops for children with opportunities to learn and create using printing techniques, felt, fused fibres, metal and clay. Work with teachers Jill Riley, Jo Brudenell, Angelika Dennis and Alys Midgelow-Marsden - all highly experienced workshop leaders and practicing artists showing work around the country.

Creative Drop-In Workshops 10.30-12.30am and 1.30-3.30pm each day
£4.00 for one child accompanied by an adult, £2.00 for each additional child
Recommended age range: 5-12, Adults should stay with their children and are welcome to join in!

Tues 2/8/05, Tues 9/8/05 and Tues 16/8/05

"Print Magic" By Jill Riley

Learn simple but effective printing techniques to create bright and colourful cards, bookmarks or book covers for you to take home.

Wed 3/8/05 and Wed 10/8/05

"Fun with Felt" By Jo Brudenell

Make pictures with brightly coloured wools to create exciting individual pieces. Try this ancient technique that's still fun today!

Thurs 4/8/05, Thurs 11/8/05 and Thurs 18/8/05

"Metal Pendants" By Alys Midgelow-Marsden

Create a pretty embossed and beaded pendant or card from copper and beads.

Fri 5/8/05, Fri 12/8/05 and Frid 19/8/05

"Clay Creation" By Angelika Dennis

Explore clay and its shape, form and texture! Take it home that day or even get your work fired in the kiln for £2 and collect the following week for you to decorate!

Wed 17/8/05

"Fun with Fused Fibres" By Alys Midgelow-Marsden

Create your own vibrant and shimmering collage from a variety of colourful fused fibres. Includes simple stitching and beads.

Sorry - No images are available for this event.

'Tree Dressing' Celebration and Workshops

Mon 1st - Sun. 7th December, 2004

The Beetroot Tree is running workshops in the first week of December that are designed to coincide with National Tree Week. These workshops will take place from 1st – 7th December and will lead to an outdoor installation of the participant's artwork and a celebratory closing event, during which participants and audience members alike can enjoy the installation. This event will be family centred and include live music.

Resident artist Alys Midgell-Marsden will lead the workshops which are suitable for all ages (age 7 and over). These workshops will help raise awareness about environmental concerns, and highlight the importance of looking after trees. Participants will learn to sculpt with wire and beads, creating three-dimensional forms that will be used to decorate trees – thereby making jewellery for trees! This project therefore combines environmental concerns with artistic practices.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Arts Council England and Gamble and Madin Chartered Accountancy.

Contemporary Installations:

The Collection - A multi-screen dance video installation by foreign bodies dance

Oct 2002

*'foreign bodies – a company with a growing reputation for creating
intelligent and challenging dance theatre'*

A fragmented collection of disparate dancing bodies found and reconstituted, surfacing and receding, resulting in unexpected juxtapositions and poignant interludes.

This work was made with the financial support of East Midlands Arts and University College Northampton

Podules - An exhibition of giant interactive sculptures by Jan Niedojadlo

22nd Oct – 2nd Nov 2003

Slither, slide and glide through the gigantic soft sculptures on display. Internationally renowned artist Jan Niedojadlo uses recycled materials to create his works that appeal to all the senses through light sound, smell and touch, bringing out a physical experience of art.

Workshops are also available based on the popular work of Jan Niedojadlo. The **workshops** are for groups and are aimed at children aged 7-11 yrs. In these sessions participants have the opportunity to experience Jan's work, design and make their own pieces using recycled materials.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England, Lottery; 20 /20 Consultancy and The Beetroot Tree Gallery

Threshold : Fleshfold

by Vida Midgelow and Brendon O'Connor, with Robert Wilsmore

Wed 14th – Sun 18th April '04

Walls of glass and reflective surfaces line the gallery forming corridors and spaces through which you can pass. Each day there will also be a solo dance performance in the installation. Sinuous and fleshy this dance highlights the intensive interconnectivity of spaces and bodies.

Fleshfold – a Solo Dance Performance
3.00pm – 3.30pm, Daily

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England, Lottery; 20 /20 Consultancy and The Beetroot Tree Gallery

Ghosts and Shadows
by Sue Jarman and Dave Wood
Wed 17th – Sun 21st Nov. '04

Shadows, myths and legends inspire this installation as artist Sue Jarman transforms the colourful writings of Dave Wood into an evocative and layered series of images printed on textiles and mixed media surfaces.

Workshops:

Textile and mixed media artist Sue Jarman and Wordsmith Dave Wood are offering a selection of workshops in conjunction with their new exhibition 'Ghosts and Shadows'. The workshops aim to develop confidence, skills and understanding in creative writing, drawing and mono-printing.

The workshops available are as follows:

Truth, Fiction and Shadows - Inspired by the language used in the 'Ghosts and Shadows' exhibition groups will be guided by wordsmith Dave Wood to produce evocative group poems.

Soft Soap – A fun and popular approach to develop skills in drama and writing. Participants build characters and create dialogue to write their own cliffhanger of a soap opera!

Capturing Shadows – Led by mixed media artist Sue Jarman this workshop aims to develop participant's skills in the use of charcoal, pastel and paint to create an exciting menagerie of shadow forms.

Text, Texture and Shapes – Using papers, fabric and ink participants are guided to create mono-prints which explore concepts such as positive and negative space, layering images, and using text as a starting point for forming texture and pattern.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England, Lottery; 20 /20 Consultancy and The Beetroot Tree Gallery

Tsunami

by Michelle Héon

Tues 2nd – Sun 14th Nov. '04

...when tragedy met melancholy...

A wreck emerges from the darkness. Fragments of red garments stratified in paper pulp, hang from the bone-like boat structure. The sounds of water droplets and heavy rain float in the air.

Internationally renowned French-Canadian artist Michelle Héon creates an evocative installation to fill the gallery.

You can view this work as it develops from 2nd- 5th Nov. During this time Michelle will be working with and mentoring a group of degree students – sharing her methods and ideas. The completed work can be seen from 6th-14th Nov.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England, Lottery; 20 /20 Consultancy and The Beetroot Tree Gallery

Still Rain

by Tom Williams, Derek Attenburrow & Vida Midgelow

Tues 1st – Sun 13th Nov. '05

In this rich, evocative, sonic installation you become the artist. As you walk through the gallery you can trigger sounds to create your own individual performance event.

There will also be a live dance performance within the installation providing an extraordinary visual, kinaesthetic and aural experience as inspiration for your own experiments.

Solo Dance Performances:

Sat 5th / Sun 6th @ 11.30 & 3.30

Sat 12th / Sun 13th @ 11.30 & 3.30

Lecture/ demonstrations are also available to groups alongside this installation.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England, Lottery, University College Northampton and The Beetroot Tree Gallery

Annual Arts Festival:

Arts and Gardens trail:

May bank holiday 2004 and 2005

The Arts festival seeks to bring the arts and artists closer to home – quite literally. By locating arts work and the makers of the art into the homes of local people the arts festival provides an excellent way of making the arts more accessible to the community.

Centred around The Beetroot Tree, as the host venue, the event offers opportunities for people and their families to see art in homes and to meet with the artists, see demonstrations of artists at work, and participate in taster sessions. In addition there are opportunities to enjoy live performances from music, dance and singing groups.

In 2004 this event attracted 350 people to see over 17 artists in 10 different local venues. Participating artists displayed their work and some also offered demonstrations and taster hands on sessions. The work ranged from the beautifully crafted wood and ceramic pieces of Jeanette Ormerod to the dramatic oil paintings by Sue Basker, and from the unusual metal work by Rebecca Walklett to the classic photography of Chris Cook, amongst others. Local arts / crafts groups were also involved with the Church Crafts Group, Draycott Community Primary School and Erewash Embroideries Guild all contributing to the event. This very impressive range of artists and good attendance was achieved with the support and goodwill of the community.

This success was built on in 2005 and we were quickly running out of programmes! The work of over 24 artists was on display and we also added to our programme performances, workshops and installations including: a new video work by Sophia Lycouris, stories, folk tunes and American Indian crafts in a full sized Teepee, Shadow puppet making and performances by Rough Magic Theatre Company and the opportunity to experience the red carpet treatment with 'Shifting Sands Theatre Company'. Draycott's own youth rock band also played in the festival – encouraging other teenagers to participate in the event. We were also able to commission a new work for the festival by metal work artist Miles Halpin. This dramatic new outdoor work depicting the Derwent Valley and surrounding settlements can be seen at The Beetroot Tree Gallery garden.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Arts Council England Lottery and The Beetroot Tree Gallery