

In Our Own Time

Apex Arts at The Inland Art Festival
Redruth, Cornwall October 21st -23rd 2016



In October Apex Arts took part in the second Inland Arts Festival in Redruth, Cornwall. This contemporary art exhibition, entitled The Future Project was “a platform for weird and wonderful futures”. Taking part in various situations throughout Redruth, it worked with local residents, artists, academics and musicians, using architecture, environment, social and cultural references to create a 3-day vision of alternative futures around Redruth.



The Apex Arts contribution featured an exhibition, procession and performance around the theme of ‘In Our Own Time’ and was the culmination of a five-week arts project made possible through support from the RTR Foundation and Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, Specialist Crafts, Krowji Studios and The Inland Arts Festival.

“Apex was the apex of my festival experience on Saturday. Brilliant performance of inspiring music and art. Congratulations and thank you !”

- workshops
- procession
- performance
- exhibition

Workshops Part 1

The project started with a rehearsal workshop at Redruth Community Centre where we discussed a theme that had been offered by one of the participants. Susie-Jo mentioned that she was unable to move on until someone

said “In Your Own Time” to her. As all Apex participants experience some anxiety around the constraints of time we envisaged an alternate future/ reality where we could all live ‘In Our Own Time’. During the workshop participants were asked what

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would make their worlds a better place in the future and supported to narrow this down to a concise 2 or 3 word statement. We discussed making individual placards featuring these statements to be exhibited at the exhibition and processed to and from the performance space.

“BE PREPARED!” - ace stuff
(exhibition feedback)

Artist profile photographs were taken, statement images enquired about and work started on 2 new songs around the theme - plus we re-visited a song using William Blake’s To see a World in a Grain of Sand poem to use in the performance.



The art sessions took place in a spacious dedicated studio at Krowji. This space was offered to us for five weeks to hold



workshops, produce and store the artworks in the run up to the festival. It also provided space to hang a green screen for filming.



Participants had 2 art sessions each, chosen over 5 dates, to



enable adequate time for support. During the first session placards were designed using printed statement letters and images which were cut out and placed on white board. These designs were then photographed. The board was then turned to landscape, images removed and re-used to create a stop motion animation.



Finally participants were asked to sing their statements, each in their unique way and these were individually recorded to be added to the animation.

Workshops Part 2

The designed photographs were enlarged and made into actual

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placards and these were presented back to participants at the next rehearsal workshop so we could practise the procession.



Chanting and processing into the car park and back again....



... before practising the performance songs together.



The second art session involved participants designing and printing a t-shirt using their original printouts and letters, based around their placard design. These were then dried and worn for a very exciting part of the project - the green screen

filming. This involved each



participant deciding how they would express their statement in front of the camera in 12-15 seconds before being individually filmed in front of the green screen.



Procession

On Saturday 22nd October all the participants met (wearing black or white) in the exhibition space - a



unit in the covered Market - to change into their t-shirts and collect their placards before taking their place on Market Way for the scheduled festival event time of 3.30pm.



We had a great turnout, with just a couple of participants missing the event due to illness, and even the sun made an occasional appearance.



As the project was about Apex entering its own time zone we decided to process in a mindful way using The Chant - a tune written by one of the Apex



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participants for a previous project, along to the mesmerising sound of Thomas drumming.



Picking up some of the larger festival audience enroute



... we processed to the top of Fore Street where we paused chanting whilst participant Eddie advertised our forthcoming performance in the Butter Market through a loud hailer.



Then processing past Redruth's Tin Miner Statue we made our way back to the Butter Market...



.... taking our audience with us.



Performance

Due to the Market and Butter Market being a festival route it had been impossible to rehearse in situ and, with our audience waiting, we decided to ask participants to 'Slow down' and get to their own performances places 'In their own time' in keeping with the message of our art. The actual performance places and audience spaces were under the fixed market stalls

which, although not very deep, suited us well being three stalls wide, with just enough space for high voices under one, lows and and the band under the other two - however it made photographing the event quite difficult.



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We performed our three songs 'Grain of Sand', 'In Your Own Time' and 'Rave On' and received a fantastic response from our festival audience.



From a giant Disco Microphone to the chant of the People's Pylon you are invited to enter the new and exciting world of Apex Arts where artists and participants seek to redress the balance of historical marginalisation and creative deprivation by putting their unique voices and original ideas at the heart of the Inland Art 2016 festival. So change time zones now, fill up your tank with Love, disengage outworn Judgement and join them on their sensational inter-dimensional journey.



Exhibition

The exhibition space was made up of 2 areas - one light area showing: the People's Pylon (a construction to house all of the placards); an audio installation recorded by participant Susie-Jo also spoken in one of the performance songs entitled 'In Your Own Time'; participant Rory's giant Disco Microphone (lit by disco lights with interactive sound buttons) and a film participant Eddie made called 'Out of Time' (shown above and right).



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"Excellent visual interactive art - wonderful. I understand what Eddie means, I also understand Susie-Jo. Brilliant !!"

"I have been inspired by the microphone button sounds"

"Smiling Flowers ! made me smile"

The other area was blacked out to show the animation/video which was looped and individually featured all of the participants wearing their t-shirts with their placards in front of their animation (which had replaced the green screen), singing their statements. It also featured a lit prop from a self-published book about a musical world made by participant Kate.



"Great, thinking on! Very joyful and interesting thoughts about time"

"Great stuff, glad I came"

"Your performance and this exhibition has been the highlight of the day for me. Thank you"

Fantastic exhibition. We feel very



inspired by your wonderful work"

"Great! I felt as though I had entered someone else's world and it was actually very calm and compelling"

"It is like to enter another world"

"I just wanted to say how impressed I was by In Your Own Time project. It was brilliant and such a good way to encourage advocacy. I wish Molly could work in this way every day"



The video is available to watch on our YouTube channel at:

<https://youtu.be/HlrmBrev-UM>

It was a brilliant experience for everyone being involved in this exhibition - with a footfall of over 300 to the Apex space over the weekend. One artist/participant commented that it had made him feel part of the community of artists.

The artist/performers all enjoyed playing to a new mainly "mainstream" audience and hearing the genuine applause at the end of the songs.

Many people who visited the exhibition chose to sit longer in the space and all contemplated the effects of time on and in their lives.

