

REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2001

REPORT ON: 'COMING TO OUR SENSES' EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE

REPORT NO: 173-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the developing education and outreach programme both in preparation for and during the Coming to Our Senses exhibition, to be held at McManus Galleries from 30 March to 17 June 2001.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee note the contents of the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total cost of the exhibition and education and outreach programme is £40,400 and is met from the Arts and Heritage Department's revenue budget £18,400 in 2000/01 and £6,000 in 2001/02 and the Scottish Arts Council Craft Department award of £16,000.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding for this exhibition and associated education and outreach programme will enable delivery of specific arts projects targeted at community groups in their venues, relevant to the exhibition themes, where "local needs are met locally" and "opportunities for culture leisure and recreation are readily available to all".

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The exhibition is designed to operate on more than one sensory level, to be accessible to as many people with sensory impairments as possible, and to be interacted and engaged with for all visitors.

5.2 Target groups have been closely involved with the pre-exhibition programme through practical activities will be invited to a special community pre-preview; have involvement with the main exhibition programme showing their work or taking part in events; will give feedback on the exhibition and visitor experience and will inform the approach to our interpretation and activities within the exhibition. (Appendix 1)

5.3 Issues of disability raised in the context of the exhibition instigate a fuller debate on access, participation, and communication that reaches far wider than the arts. This exhibition in McManus Galleries is a focal point for that discussion.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 This exhibition has been created in partnership with Craftspace Touring, Birmingham with Dundee as the only Scottish venue in the exhibition tour. Coming to Our Senses pre-exhibition programme has been ongoing between January and March 2001. The exhibition will be at McManus Galleries, Albert Square, Dundee from Friday 30 March to Sunday 17 June 2001.

6.2 The exhibition comprises of 17 separate works of contemporary craft to be explored through vibration, temperature, smell, colour, texture, light intensity and sight. The artists were selected from proposals they submitted and include large walk through installations to pieces of jewellery and includes;

- Michael Anastassiades work 'Anti Social Light, Social Light' is three booths with lights that respond in different ways to changes in noise levels;
- Jim Bond's 'Olfactory' is a very elegant construction presenting three flasks containing different smells that you are invited to identify also incorporating braille instructions;
- Anna Cocciadiffero presents a variety of garments with a difference, a wig that affects your balance, a magnetic glove and wrap around skirt that act mysteriously;
- Bree Croon offers a selection of spheres tantalisingly suspended for you to walk amongst, creatively covered in a variety of pink textures and containing some surprises;
- Lizzie Farey, Jem and Jools Cox have created 'Outside Inside' a willow and reed contemplative pod with natural materials and smells incorporated;
- James Griffen's 'Gold Square, Steel Square' uses traditional metals in wall mounted frames where you can move the components to create delicate sounds and change the patterns of the pieces;
- Kei Ito's 'Sensuous Enclosures' are wonderful costumes which can be touched to discover secret pockets and contents, dramatic colour contrasts, and braille inscriptions;
- Marcus Rowlands has created leather sculptures called 'Tender' which you can explore and discover which one pulses and which you have to move yourself;
- Kate Schuricht and Tom Kirk presents a series of ceramic containers with a variety of materials inside that produce different sounds when handled;
- Andrew Stonyer invites you to enter 'Explorer' a darkened environment with a light sculpture that you can manipulate once you have discovered how to;
- Sarah Taylor has produced a light emitting interactive fibre optic panel which you can influence and create light and sound effects;

Included in the information points are works by the following artists that are not available for direct handling:

- Ann Belgrave, Melanie Kerour and Evy Saunders- have created textile related works;
- Elizabeth Harris has ceramic works that contain delicate materials such as feathers with an audio description provided by a visually impaired person so you hear their interpretation of something you can see but they cannot;
- Sarah Davidson has produced photographs relating to the senses;
- Kim Lin Yip has created reactive jewellery that responds to body temperature;
- Ruth Spaak has created a sound piece that investigates the sense of sound.

6.3 The outreach programme for the exhibition has taken two approaches, first to make people aware of the exhibition and what the themes and potential for activities are and second to offer practical activities led and developed by artists and adapted to the needs of the groups.

6.4 There have been a number of visits to community groups and organisations with a slide presentation by Christine Millar the Temporary Part Time 'Coming to our Senses' Project Officer ranging from a Social Work Department Senior Management Team to the Tayside Profound and Multiple Impairment Service at Dundee University (Appendix 2).

- 6.5 There have been practical activities arranged for a wide range of organisations or groups which have involved an initial visit with slides and discussion about the exhibition and a series of follow up sessions with practical hands-on activities giving locally trained young artists the opportunity to work directly with community groups. (Appendix 3)
- 6.6 A full programme of events and activities are planned for the 11 weeks of the exhibition starting with the opening weekend on 31 March/1 April with workshops led by Jim Bond one of the exhibition artists, and family entertainment on sensory themes;
- 'Touchy Feely' (3-5 and 10-12 April) spring holiday activities for children with booked groups in the mornings and open sessions to be booked in the afternoons which will create a sensory space within McManus Galleries Activity Room and transform its appearance and 'feel';
 - 'Making Sense' (31 March, 7,14,21 April) series of four Saturday workshops for 16+ participants working with artists to explore artworks through touch, sight, sound and smell;
 - 'Sunday Senses' (1 April - 10 June) family workshops throughout the exhibition with hands-on sensory activities suitable for under 8s;
 - Community Focus (16- 27 April) where events will be programmed in community venues and highlight work produced as part of pre-exhibition projects;
 - Artist residencies during May in school and community venues, including parks and sport venues;
 - Artist talks during May and June, where artists involved in the exhibition and others working on sensory themes will share their experiences and work practice and offer insights for those interested in developing their own practice.
- 6.7 The cross-departmental officer steering group led by Arts and Heritage has involved Education, Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources and Leisure and Parks Departments, which has demonstrated how the arts can play a part in the delivery of services beyond the Arts and Heritage Department's immediate remit.
- 6.8 Education projects comprise of a pack to be distributed to all schools linking directly to the exhibition activities and developing ideas using the senses as a theme; working with artists Chris Biddlecombe and David Troughton creating new instruments and developing new sounds; investigating 'Stories in the Air' signed stories for hearing impaired children; linking the exhibition themes to creative writing with the possibility of small performances in McManus Galleries; and a 6 week period when the Activity Room will be reserved for education groups use.
- 6.9 Social Work will have a dedicated 6 week period when the Activity Room will be reserved to bring groups to view the exhibition and have practical sessions, and will work with an artist at the Wellgate Day Centre to create a new sensory area.
- 6.10 Neighbourhood Resources input has been through working with established groups at the Hub, Brooksbank, Whitfield, Douglas Neighbourhood Centres; and assistance with training and translation through the Equality Action Team.
- 6.11 Leisure and Parks involvement will be through the Spring Flower Show with a sensory themed event; through themed arts related activities within Parks; and involvement with the Sports Development Team activities for people with disabilities.
- 6.12 'Contact: Crossing Borders' is a project funded through the Millennium Year of the Artist Scheme where local artists Nicole Bennet and Ossie Paesano worked with a group of Craigie High School Deaf Unit students. The resulting art work will be on show at McManus Galleries for a period during the exhibition as it compliments the areas covered in Coming to Our Senses and demonstrates the range of work taking place in the City which can be showcased within Arts and Heritage facilities.

6.13 The Art Cart, a unique interactive creation, will be available as a stimulus for events in the Activity Room at McManus Galleries. It was developed as a mobile unit with young children in mind, to offer them a hands-on opportunity to explore colour, texture, shape, forms, and movement often represented in contemporary art. It is an intriguing object in itself which invites you to see what it is about and has obvious appeal to the senses complimenting the range of activities that are on offer and the exhibition itself.

6.14 A complimentary series of art taster sessions is currently taking place in Kirkton and Ardler funded through the North West Neighbourhood Service Team Youth Strategy. The theme of the senses and exploring the visual arts through touch, taste, sound, smell and vision using food, printing, collage, dressing up, photography and video has created a lot of interest with young people who would not usually engage with arts activities and evaluation will establish the level of demand for continued activities.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Education, Director of Neighbourhood Resources, Director of Social Work, Director of Leisure and Parks have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Coming to Our Senses report No 690-2000

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____

'Coming to Our Senses' Education and Outreach

Pre-Exhibition projects

1. The Helm, St Andrews Lane, Dundee.
Developing how the senses of touch, sight, sound, smell and taste relate to the Centre's environment
2. The White Top Centre, Dundee.
Producing 'ceramic ties' developing the idea of the familiar not being what it seems. Ties will be worn to the community preview.
3. Sense Scotland, Temple Lane, Dundee.
Constructing an interactive sculpture with deaf blind residents developing movement and structure to create an art work.
4. Artlife, young people's art group from Mid Craigie, The Hub Neighbourhood Centre.
Creating sensory head-dresses and spectacles which will be worn to the community preview.

'Coming to Our Senses' Education and Outreach

Hands-on practical sessions

Workshops with artists developing ideas and activities on the themes of the exhibition and issues it raises.

The Helm, Learning Disability Group

Douglas Women's Group

Douglas Special Needs Group

Artlife, the Hub

Brooksbank Neighbourhood Centre - 5-8s Club, 16+ Group, Zombie Nation (9-11s group), Dodgy Characters (1st Year Club), Women's Health Group.

Whitfield 5-9s Club

Inclusion Group, The Helm

PAMIS - Profound and Multiple Impairment Service, Dundee University

Happyhillock Resource Base, Children's Groups

Rainbow House, Mid Craigie

Quality Contact, Charleston

Study Support Group, Baldragon

'Coming to Our Senses' Education and Outreach

Slide Presentations

Kemback Adult Resource Centre
Whitfield Child and Family Centre
PAMIS- Profound and Multiple Impairment Service, Dundee University
MacKinnon Centre
White Top Centre
The Helm
Sense Scotland
Social Senior Management Team
The Inclusion Group
Professional Workers Meeting, Mid Craigie & Linlathen
Quality Contact
Bharatiya Ashram