

engage Scotland

Learning Styles in Gallery Education Thursday 21 February 2008

Speaker Biographies

Emily Pringle

Emily Pringle trained as a painter and worked for several years in gallery education as an artist delivering workshops and as an education co-ordinator. Since 1998 Emily has researched and evaluated visual arts practice and arts education work. Notable projects include research into forms of engagement between artists, participants and others in Arts Council England's (ACE) 'Sites for Learning' projects. This culminated in a publication and informed the series of symposia that ACE ran throughout 2003. She has undertaken research and evaluation for, amongst others, Tate Gallery, the National Gallery, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Serpentine Gallery. Emily is in the final stages of a PhD at The Institute of Education, University of London which addresses the role of the artist within contemporary gallery education.

Sarah Saunders

Sarah Saunders trained as a silversmith and teacher. She taught in Further Education, running the Art Foundation Course at Harrow for a number of years, before becoming Assistant Head of Department there in 2000. From 2002-2006 she was Student Events Organiser at the V&A, devising events and resources for students and contributing to many exhibitions including *Guy Bourdin*, *Brilliant*, *Vivienne Westwood*, *Spectres*, *Diane Arbus* and *Modernism*. Sarah is currently Learning & Programmes Officer at National Museums Scotland where she is working on exhibitions and major projects including *Silver: Made in Scotland*, *Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon* and four permanent galleries as part of the museum's £46 million redevelopment project.

Annie Bicknell

Annie started out from a science and research background before going on to work with a diverse range of community groups, prisons, schools and individuals running creative workshops and training schemes. In 1999 she undertook commissioned research for the Sainsbury's Centre for Mental Health and Leonard Cheshire Foundation exploring empowerment and inclusion issues for service users in Surrey. Following this Annie qualified as a teacher and taught initially in primary education in Hampshire, then in schools in London and gallery education at Tate Britain where she worked on the schools, community and public programmes.

In 2001 Annie started working with the Bow Arts Trust, a pioneering arts organisation in the East End of London comprising a contemporary art gallery, 100 visual artist studios and a London wide education programme. Her role was to develop and expand the Education department. Since her appointment it has grown from offering eight schools visual arts input and turning over £60K a year, to delivering cross art form educational projects to 50 schools and community groups across London and turning over in excess

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of £220K per annum. Annie is particularly interested in helping people to recognise creativity across a wide spectrum of subject areas and work disciplines and to value its impact on the learning process. Her programme focuses on developing an enjoyment of contemporary art and ideas through direct engagement with living artists and their work. Within her work at the Trust she embraces this through applying a multi-disciplinary approach and building long term partnerships with the schools, artists, organisations and individuals with whom she works.

Annie has been involved in formal and informal education for over 10 years, and has returned to her earlier interest in research and the advancement of high quality creative teaching and learning. Recent national action research programmes that she has been involved with include: working with Creative Partnerships to explore preferred learning styles and creativity, Envision: focusing on using creative methods to put young people's voice at the centre of key decision making processes and she is in her fourth year of delivering the national Enquire research programme which informs strategic commissioning for Museums and Galleries and aims to identify the conditions that create inspiring learning in the gallery and highlight the benefits of working with contemporary art.