

ENGAGE INSPIRE IMAGINE CREATE

SARAH WAKEFORD CV

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RELEVANT SKILLS

Working with vulnerable young people

I gained experience of working with looked after young people while working on the creative identities project. I devised and facilitated a fun art activity for vulnerable families and have worked in collaboration with service users in a residential rehabilitation unit for people with mental health problems.

*When I received feedback from my interview at 37 Whittucks Road I was informed that I had been selected due to the quality of my work but also that I have the sensitivity required to work with a range of people with varying abilities and understanding and the intuition to respond appropriately to peoples needs.

Interest in engaging young people in contemporary art

I have run many projects as an artist/facilitator with young people and have enjoyed engaging with them and making art exciting and accessible.

I have become increasingly interested in the use of creativity as a catalyst for learning. I see it as a tool to enable people to engage and be inspired by new subjects and information.

Experience in using creative and innovative methods to help build confidence and motivation through arts participation

I allow participants to be in control of their creative journey, making decisions for themselves at every opportunity. I hope this will develop a sense of pride and ownership to the work. I feel it is important for young people to explore their own ideas and produce work that is individual to them while learning new skills and techniques I enable participants to try techniques they would enjoy and be a positive mentor gently guiding throughout the process.

*While working with service users at my printmaking residency at 37 Whittucks Road I gained experience of designing activities specifically for building confidence and motivation. To begin with the service users I worked with were very timid and a bit scared/shy to get involved. I developed a series of activities that were quick, easy and effective this enabled participants of low ability not to be embarrassed to join in. Once the commissions were completed and installed the participants could identify their ideas and the specific parts they had made and feel a sense of pride in their involvement.

Experience in using a range of media that will engage young people

In my own work I enjoy being experimental with media and I like to pass on my enthusiasm for art to the people I am working with. I am successful in engaging young people by offering a wide range of fun activities to suit all kinds of interests.

* While working on my collaborative commission at Old Swinford Hospital School, I was working with a group of 15 year old boys. I designed a series of workshops that would be sure to excite and engage this group. We used spray paints, freehand and with stencils to create a large wall work.

* While making artwork with children at Mount Cameron Primary School in East Kilbride. We did some very fun activities where we dipped tennis balls into different coloured paints and threw them at big canvases to make a colourful picture. We also used old crayons and melted them using a hot iron to make pictures onto fabric. The children really responded to these activities as they are things that are different and exciting.

I have experience of **printmaking, stencils, collage/paper mosaic, textiles, glass painting, spray painting, digital photography and editing, animation , drawing and painting, sculpture and light work.** I also always really enjoy developing new techniques and skills that I can pass on to people I am working with.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Arts Facilitator-Cashback for communities- Creative Identities Nov 09

Project with looked after young people 13-18, East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire.

The aims of this project were to-

- * Enable young people to communicate using arts
- * Generate new partnerships between arts organisations and organisations dedicated to supporting vulnerable young people
- * Promote positive images of young people.
- * Empower young people to shape the nature of their activities.
- * Support young people to achieve, gain confidence and develop skills
- * Promote long term sustainable development of these activities through partnership working, skills development among the organisations involved, and independent evaluation.

I designed and delivered a series of workshops based on the theme creative identities. The participants made decisions for themselves at every opportunity and produced a piece of work that was individual and personal to them. The young people developed a sense of pride in their work and learned new skills that they can use in the future.

Artist in Residence - Liberton High School Heritage project, June 09

Following a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Young Roots Fund, the school secured funding to develop an innovative heritage project to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school. It was a cross-curricular project that engaged the whole school community for one academic year. My role as artist in residence was to create artwork with the students inspired by the findings of the research phase and the work produced during the various other artist residencies (musician, film maker, writer and story teller). I was also responsible for designing and co-ordinating the concluding event/exhibition which brought all these parts together in an exciting and engaging way.

The main aims of the project were to-

- *To increase opportunities to learn about local heritage
- *To widen participation in local heritage, to encourage pupils to take a pride in their local heritage
- *To share this pride with their wider community

The students embraced the project and have discovered that the area where they live should be valued and cherished.

Collaborative Commission - Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge, July 07

I was commissioned to create collaborative work with some of the students for a boarding house that was being redeveloped.

After initial consultation with the boys to find out what type of artwork they would like to make and would like to have in the boarding house, I designed a project and proposal of work. Students were enabled to learn and use techniques of their choice facilitated by me through workshops. The boys developed their own personal ideas and then created work which was used to create a larger collaborative piece.

VISUAL LANGUAGE

I enjoy creating site specific work that can change the atmosphere of a space and have an effect on peoples mood and well being. I have a hands on approach to art and enjoy being experimental with media. I use a combination of media, collage and fabric to create 2d and 3d artwork that is decorative, colourful and striking, sometimes using light, digital photography and printmaking.

As well as creating my own work, I work well collaboratively, taking into account others ideas and needs often using workshops to develop themes, ideas and to aid fabrication of the work. I find this approach exciting and the outcomes can be unexpected and innovative.

PROJECT HISTORY

Arts Facilitator - Mount Cameron Primary School, East Kilbride. Oct09-Dec09

Arts Facilitator - Cashback for communities- Creative Identities, East Kilbride. Nov 09

Workshop leader - Mini Music Makers, South Lanarkshire Council, Sept 09- Oct 09

Artist in Residence - Liberton High School Heritage project, June09

Artist in Residence - High Mill & Braehead Primary School, Carluke. Jan09-May09

Artist/facilitator - Be Safe project, South Lanarkshire Council Feb08-April09

Arts Facilitator - Family Day, East Kilbride, Dec 08

Gallery technician - Artlink Edinburgh. Dec08-present.

Workshop leader - Museums and schools scheme, Biggar High School. May-June 08

Freelance illustrator/artist - illustration, gallery, private commissions Sept05-present

Artist in residence - Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge. Sept 05- July 07

Collaborative Commission - Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge July 07

Printmaking residency - 37 Whittucks Road South Gloucestershire, residential rehabilitation and recovery unit for people with mental health problems Nov 06- Apr 07

Commissions - ITS Northern general hospital Sheffield, Jan 05-Oct 06

EDUCATION

Postgraduate Diploma in Illustration at Edinburgh College of Art, July 2005
BA(HONS) Illustration at Edinburgh College of Art, July 2004

OTHER TRAINING

*** Beyond Words- Sense Scotland**

Exploring the possibilities of art and music in developing communication and expressing identity within the creative and caring sectors

*** Protective Behaviours-South Lanarkshire Council**

Addressing issues of sexual abuse in children, developing strategies to enable children to recognize when they feel unsafe and allow them to disclose to a safe adult.