



Press Release

Exhibition in a Box - success for fine art course in California

Seven artists from the BA (Hons) Fine Art course at Leeds College of Art exhibited their work at the prestigious San Francisco Art Institute in California in August 2012. Richard Baker, Garry Barker, Kelly Cumberland, Sheila Gaffney, Andrew Lister, Tom Palin and Sarah Taylor boxed up their work and brought it over to San Francisco, before revealing it to the locals in an exhibition in the [Diego Rivera Gallery](#).

The exhibition, titled 'Local Imagination', explored and questioned the idea of local imagination, difference, belonging and the importance of tradition. Pevsner noted a detachment and self-effacement among English artists and an understated but often quirky intelligence. This exhibition offered a San Francisco audience an opportunity to assess if this is still the case and to see if George Bernard Shaw's often quoted aphorism that "We are two countries separated by a common language," still stands.

With well over 300 visitors, the exhibition was popular with students and staff from the San Francisco Art Institute and invited guests who were fascinated by the way in which work had been constructed and asked questions on how it related to Leeds, provoking lots of discussion.

Fine Art Programme Leader Sheila Gaffney said: *'It was a pleasure to talk about our work with an International audience. We were inundated with interest and compliments from visitors- the word 'Awesome' was used regularly, and we felt like we engaged with them in a meaningful way allowing valuable analysis of our works. We built up relationships here that hopefully will lead to opportunities for our students to spend time at San Francisco Art Institute and vice-versa.'*

For more information about the BA(Hons) Fine Art course click [here](#)



Editor's Notes

Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1842, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today.

We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk