



Press Release

Date: Thursday 9th January 2013

Behind the Mosaic - The nature of creativity

16 December 2013 - 17 January 2014

Leeds College of Art, Studio Theatre Gallery, Blenheim Walk, LS2 9AQ

Art educationalists at Leeds College of Art are currently exhibiting work to offer a window to the inner structures of art education, divided by a century and united by a noble goal; success through creativity.

Words by artist and art educator Gordon Mitchell Forsyth, 1879-1952 were the starting point for an exploration of the connections between artistic and educationalist practice. Tutors presently working at Leeds College of Art were asked to respond to the question; *does your creative practice inform your learning design?*

Guest Susan Coles, President of the National Society of Education in Art & Design visited the exhibition and commented: *'The making of art is central to human existence and we need to remind policy makers about this as our subject is threatened and marginalised by political interference. The National Society of Education in Art and Design, of which I am currently President, believes strongly in promoting and defending art and design education. My visit to Leeds College of Art gives me much hope for the present and the future. By celebrating, promoting and showcasing, you are actually defending. Well done to all involved. Thank you.'*

Through their words and practice, tutors' response is evidenced and contextualised in debates surrounding creativity and art education in 1913 and 2013. In doing so, the exhibition offers an opening, to consider the nature of creativity and the structures designed to cultivate and measure it. There is commonality in the exhibition in that process is equally important to outcome; each individual artist's journey reflects the diverse ways in which creative people find the visual language to communicate their ideas, thoughts and concepts.

Leeds College of Art has an incredible legacy of facilitating creativity in all its complexity, as evident in *Behind the Mosaic* (2003) a publication that describes 1913 as an era of particular vibrancy, where curricula and exhibitions nurtured students such as Jacob Kramer.

The exhibition features work by Leeds College of Art staff - Richard Baker, Sharon Bainbridge, Paul Bennett-Todd, Sam Broadhead, Cheryl Huntbach, Debra Roberts, Dan Robinson, Graham Tansley and Ross Williams. The exhibition was curated by Janine Sykes, with close collaboration with the exhibition officer Terence Jones and exhibitors.

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

