

woodendbarn

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

VISUAL ART

Exhibition Proposition: We are the Energy!

Helen Smith

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Preview | 29th September 2-5pm

Tuesday 2nd October – Saturday 13th October

Free | Lang Byre Gallery, Woodend Barn

Opening times: Tuesday - Saturday

Noon – 4pm

Helen Smith presents a new artwork, FOLD as part of her current PhD research into the nature and potential of creativity, provoked by the presence of an artist, for organisational and community environments such as Woodend Barn.

Let's dance! If not, dance, then let's fold cotton sheets together.
And while we do, let's consider this idea: **We are the Energy!**

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication with an essay and artwork by Helen Smith and photography by Anke Addy. Plus a documentary film, "The Pool of Information" (1993), directed by Jini Rowling with extracts from 'The Centre Film' (1947) by Paul Rotha. The exhibition preview is at 2pm on Saturday 29th September, as part of Woodend Barn's 20th anniversary celebrations.

FOLD proposes to the community at Woodend Barn that **We are the Energy!** and that we consider this through the experience of folding sheets together. It is a metaphor for creativity growing from the principals concerning the nature of creativity described by Arthur Koestler as bi-sociation and described earlier by John Dewey in his ideas concerning art as experiences folded simultaneously across our planes of perception; sensory, emotional and intellectual.

Helen Smith says "FOLD is an experience gained through a familiar domestic action in a public location with friends and new acquaintances. It asks how might we recognise these experiences and understand their potential implications for our wellbeing and the health and sustainability of our communities?"

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To complement FOLD the artist also presents a short documentary film about the Peckham Experiment (1926-1950). This was an experiment in family & community health led by Doctors Scott Williamson and Innis Pearse. They are recognised as having identified that an individual, family and communities leisure time was the most significant moment for effecting the environment in which they could affect their long-term health and wellbeing.

About the artist:

Helen Smith, (<http://www.helensmith.co.uk/biog.html>) visual artist and founder director of Waygood Gallery & Studios, is the doctoral researcher for "Connecting Communities through the Arts" AHRC funded Collaborative Doctoral Award with Woodend Barn Arts Centre, Aberdeenshire, Gray's Art School and the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University. After graduating in Fine Art from Sunderland Polytechnic (1985) and Newcastle University MFA in 1994, Smith founded Waygood Gallery and Studios as an artist led initiative in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne as a programme of critical contemporary art presented in the context of an artist's venue. With a substantial track record of exhibitions, Smith will research the Barn as a significant organizational model that connects in multiple ways with its local community groups within Banchory and beyond. She will address a series of research questions such as How is creativity channeled and provoked by the presence of an artist? How can processes of creativity (artistic and organizational) best address the pressing social and economic issues of sustainability, social responsibility, coupled with self-reliance, to lead to social and individual well-being in its fullest sense?

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funds world-class, independent researchers in a wide range of subjects: ancient history, modern dance, archaeology, digital content, philosophy, English literature, design, the creative and performing arts, and much more. This financial year the AHRC will spend approximately £98m to fund research and postgraduate training in collaboration with a number of partners. The quality and range of research supported by this investment of public funds not only provides social and cultural benefits but also contributes to the economic success of the UK. For further information on the AHRC, please go to: www.ahrc.ac.uk

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For images, interviews and more information, contact James Black, Audience Development Officer at Woodend Barn, on 01330 826520 or at james@woodendbarn.co.uk