

16th April 2015, Bank Street Arts

The Speakers

Professor Matthew Flinders

- Challenges may also be opportunities. The arts sector should not see itself as victims.
- The instrumentalisation can come through the instrumentalisation of values themselves.



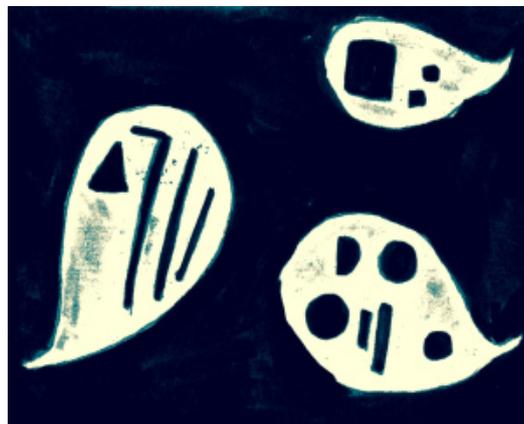
- The causation is near impossible to determine, as long term benefits anecdotally seem to be some the of strongest arguments in favour of arts.
- We need to work 'with', rather than 'for'

- Art within politics creates valuable space for listening and safe spaces for two-way communication



John Newbigin

- We need new ways of looking at the exchange
- Accountability changed through making deals with different public bodies
- Art can create social cohesion, reduce crime, create well being- funding needn't come from ACE for these things. We can have service level agreements
- We need to start having a different kind of conversation... and be careful of the language that we use. Meet others 'where they're at'



- Be generous. Listen.
- How do we engage with the world around us?!



- Collaboration is the only way sector can function.

Teo Greenstreet

- Joining the dots between what arts can offer and what we really need.
- We need the arts to make the technological and political shift we need to make for environmental sustainability: offer the tools to imagine and build a better future.
- Passing on a healthy the planet to future generations is paramount



- We need to fall in love with nature.



- The arts is a resource within imaginative ways to face environmental disaster.



Art can help us face environmental disaster through REVIEW:

- **R**econnecting with the wider natural world
- **E**motional response- enabling empathy
- **V**alues
- **I**magination, makes different futures possible, Polly Higgins
- **E**nabling
- **W**onder/What keeps the spirit alive



The Table Discussions

The questions addressed by the tables were: What three things can have impact on getting the message out? And how can What Next help to achieve this?

Table 1

The questions were not really addressed here, there was more general discussion around collective vs individual responsibility. Some of the notes which were made:

- All that's really talked about is the social value of art, rather than intrinsic value. Underlying assumption here that 'participatory is better than art for art's sake'?
- There is a link between democracy and art because it's a way to get our voices heard- voicing people's opinions through artistic skills.
- Things that don't necessarily seem political can have political impact.
- Art has power to LISTEN. space for listening. Literally putting people's voices in art might be an answer



- Socially responsible art needs to be shouted about because not as easy to consume.

- We need a shift in how we view the world- art can play a key role in this

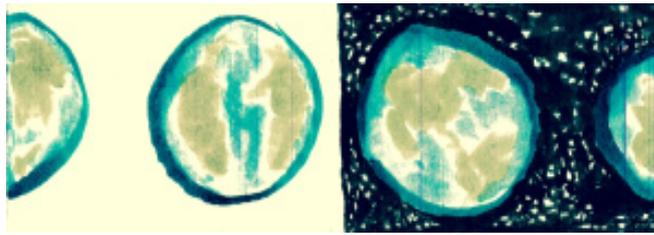


Table 2

- Focus on the young: de-motivated, de-sensitised
- We must guard against the deadening of our responses



- De-centralise leadership and authority
- What is the relationship between science and art?
- Small change- talking spaces, design
- We need a meta story of art and progress
- What is progress if we're unhappy?
- REVIEW as Re-act, Exchange, Vote, Include, Exhale, Wonder
- Art and social entrepreneurs

Table 3

- Showing not telling!
- Stories
- Being the bridges
- 3 things WN could do:
 - Widen base of support from 'stakeholders'
 - Showing through diverse practice and experiences that arts are of value and it makes you feel valued...
 - Make it physical and tactile. 'Stuff'



Images by Joseph Houlders (joe@thebareproject.org)