

The People's Story and Making Museums: dynamic co-devised projects (provisional title)

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The Masters programme MFA Art, Society & Publics (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (DJCAD), University of Dundee promotes the interconnectivity between artist, production, research and context. It does this by focussing students practices' on art's role in society and attention to diverse publics. Students are challenged to develop sustainable practices by engaging with complex networks, situations and events.

Projects are devised collaboratively between programme staff and external partner organisations. The aim is to enable porosity between the art school (the academy) and non-academic organisations in order that students, staff and partners as equally active agents, can explore through making, how art can contribute to the shaping of our social, civic, economic and cultural lives.

The two projects that this paper will discuss are 'The People's Story' and 'Making Museums: Geography, people and politics'.

'The People's Story' is a student placement opportunity at The McManus, Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum. It is part of 'Making the Most of Masters: Employer Engagement in the Postgraduate Experience' (MMM) and sits within the 2017 year-long programme of activities and events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of The McManus. It was developed jointly between Tracy Mackenna and Christine Millar, Section Leader, Learning and Engagement, Leisure & Culture Dundee. The process of organising and the outcomes will form the basis of numerous case studies and institutional staff development events (Centre for the enhancement of Academic Skills, Teaching, Learning & Employability) and DJCAD's Masters Show (2017). Two MFA Art, Society & Publics students will work with The McManus to address key questions e.g. what is a museum, what are collections and who are the museum's community? The students will share ideas and develop their own practices, gain experience of cultural projects delivered within a community context, work closely with museum staff and other cultural/community agencies and research museum collections.

The symposium 'Making Museums: Geography, people and politics can determine how we create the museums of today', Timespan, Helmsdale, Scotland (2017) is co-curated by Timespan and The Museum of Loss and Renewal (Tracy Mackenna & Edwin Janssen). How do specific geographies and publics shape the methodologies we apply in a museum? What practices and values are shared irrespective of place? What active role can or should museums take with regards to politics? 'Making Museums' two-day symposium activates Helmsdale as a museum. Timespan's museum redevelopment will provide a grounding context for both days. MFA Art, Society & Publics students and alumni are being commissioned by The Museum of Loss and Renewal to devise and present practice and theory-based critiques of the symposium's key focus, as part of the symposium.

In both projects academic staff, partner organisations and Masters students will collectively investigate the implications of these activities for sustainable art practices and fine art pedagogy.

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