



EUROPEAN **OUTSIDER ART** ASSOCIATION

SPEAKER AND ORGANISATIONAL BIOGRAPHIES

**The Artist's Voice: European Outsider Art Association Conference
4th – 6th May 2018**

Friday 4th May 2018

Bobby Baker

Bobby Baker is an artist acclaimed for producing radical work of outstanding quality across disciplines including performance, drawing and multimedia. In a career spanning four decades she has, amongst other things, dance with meringue ladies; made a life-sized version of her family out of cake; and driven around the streets on London strapped to the back of a truck yelling at passers-by through a megaphone to 'Pull Yourselves Together.' Baker's touring exhibiting Diary Drawings: Mental Illness and Me 1997 – 2008 premiered at the Wellcome Collection in 2009, and the accompanying book of the same name won Mind Book of the Year in 2011. Her most recent live show, Mad Gyms & Kitchens, was commissioned as part of the London 2012 Unlimited project for the Cultural Olympiad. Baker occupies a unique professional and personal position in the worlds of both the arts and mental health. Following an Arts and Humanities Research Council Fellowship at Queen Mary University, London, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2011.

Saturday 5th May 2018

Supporting the Artist's Voice (panel discussion)

Garvald Artists – Morven McCrae

Garvald Edinburgh's work is inspired by Rudolf Steiner's ideas of social therapy. We provide an environment for adults with learning disabilities to learn skills in art, craft, food and nature-based workshops. Our ethos is that each person has a valuable and unique contribution to make; we endeavour to enable every individual to fulfil their potential. The Garvald Art Studio enables 22 artists to explore and develop their creative voice in studio based art practice. The voice of each artist is unique and Morven's role is to provide a space that enables the artist to become confident in expressing their own creativity. Artists are supported to build a body of work to exhibition standard and to exhibit their work in a range of settings. The artists are building a reputation as a group of individuals who are creating an exciting and dynamic range of art work. (United Kingdom)

Headway East London – Billy Mann and Alex Brady

Five years ago, Billy Mann suffered an ischemic stroke, followed by complications that required emergency brain surgery. As part of his rehabilitation, he became a day member of Headway East London, a charity supporting survivors of brain injury. In their art studio, Submit to Love, he uses art to explore the events and emotions of his trauma and its aftermath. Alex Brady is an Art Coordinator at Submit to Love/ Headway East London. She works with people who have suffered a wide range of brain injuries using her own skills as an artist to enable them to explore all aspects of creativity. Last year, Submit to Love held standalone exhibitions at Stratford Circus Arts Centre and at London's Southbank Centre. More exhibitions are in progress. (United Kingdom)

Arts Project Australia – Sim Luttin

Arts Project Australia is a studio and gallery that supports 130+ artists with intellectual disabilities, promoting their work and advocating for inclusion within contemporary art practice. Since its inception, Arts Project Australia has continued to strive for excellence, both in the quality of the exhibitions presented and the excellence of the innovative studio program. Established in 1974, they have continually been a leader and innovator in the arts and disability sectors. They were the first full-time art studio in Australia for artists with an intellectual disability and, over the past 44 years, have built an enviable reputation nationally and internationally for the creative and individual studio philosophy, as well as the outstanding artwork produced there. (Australia)

Blue Circus – Autism Foundation in Finland

We are Sininen Sirkus (The Blue Circus) art collective, founded in Finland in January 2017. Our members are Otto Kasvio, Markku Tolvanen, Juhani Rusanen, Riina Noro and Joannis Clementides. We all work in the field of Fine Art in a shared art studio in Autismsäätiö in Helsinki, Finland. Otto Kasvio has a diploma in fine art and the rest of us are self-taught artists. We have organised three group exhibitions as Sininen Sirkus and several solo shows as individual artists. Two of us are participating in a collaboration with another Non-Governmental Organisation, where we are working as peer art tutors with people with learning disabilities. We are unique individuals with our own strengths and weaknesses. Our strength is our unlimited imagination. We all have features of autism disorder. (Finland)

The Living Museum – Helen Roeten

The Living Museum NL is the first 'outsider art' programme in the Netherlands that belongs to the people who make the art. Since 2015, 45 artists have been running the Living Museum in Bennebroek. Helen Roeten is a member of the Living Museum in The Netherlands and a peerworker in a psychiatric hospital in Bennebroek. Last year, she was invited to Korea to help set up a Living Museum in Yongin. (The Netherlands)

Exhibiting the Artist's Voice (panel discussion)

Creahm/MADMusee – Marie Remacle and Laetitia Bica

The MADMusee is the Creahm Museum, based in Belgium. The aim of the museum is to curate and promote works of art produced by Creahm artists throughout the world, revealing and deploying art forms produced by people with learning disabilities. For the last two years, Creahm has been working closely with photographer Laetitia Bica. This collaboration challenges the photographer,

who questions the place of the learning disabled artist. Bica has been working with artist Samuel Cariaux as part of a creative residency, which will be part of an exhibition during the Biennale de l'Image Possible (BIP) in 2018. The residency came about following Cariaux's idea to remove himself from his usual environment of the Creahm studio. (Belgium)

Sarah Watson and William Hanekom

Sarah Watson is multi-skilled and self-taught. She expresses herself through her art, experimenting with mixed media, drawing, animation and photographs. In his work, William Hanekom intends to explore more of the fuzzy side in which we confuse dreams and memories, and how our modern world and the media we consume affects that. Watson and Hanekom are both part of Carousel, an award-winning charity supporting learning disabled people to achieve their artistic ambitions. In 2017, they worked on a collaborative project called 'Wonderland,' creating and presenting new work of their interpretation and artistic response to the theme. (United Kingdom)

Billy Weston

Billy Weston (b.1963, London) is an artist born and living in South London. Billy suffered a major brain haemorrhage in September 1978 at the age of 14, which left him paralysed down his right side. After his accident, he was encouraged to concentrate on his strongest ability, which was art. Billy's drawings, paintings and ceramic pieces became outlets of energy, and he eventually attended Camberwell College of Art (1989-1992) but remained untouched by the art-school ethos. Billy decided to become tee-total in 2004 following struggles with alcohol and substance misuse. Currently Billy works on his artwork reclusively at home, but does draw compulsively when he is out, and has access to an open ceramic studio. (United Kingdom)

Sara Burgess

Sara Burgess (b.1987, Suffolk) is an artist living and working in South London. Sara was born with a hearing impairment which affects her ability to communicate with others, and developed anxiety and depression as a teenager. Sara studied for an Art Foundation at Falmouth College of Art (2005-2006) and a BA in Sculpture at Camberwell College of Arts (2007-2010) but struggled with depression during this time. Sara sought solace in an art therapy class in Autumn 2009 where she met Billy Weston, who eventually became her partner. Currently Sara works on her alternative metal art work on a regular basis in an open sculpture class at Morley College whilst holding down a full-time job and assisting Billy on a day-to-day basis. Sara is also learning how to throw ceramics for Billy to decorate. (United Kingdom)

Samaneh Atef and Oana Americai (the Grand BAZ'ART)

Samaneh Atef Derakshan was born in 1989 in the town of Astaneh Ashrafieh in the northern part of Iran. Although she had trained to be a software engineer, in 2014 she decided to devote all her time to her drawings, which she had been creating compulsively since she was a child. This turning point in her life came after a 'real artist,' as she referred to him, saw her drawings and encouraged her to keep creating. While being fairly inexperienced as a full-time artist, having participated in only a handful of exhibitions, Samaneh's artistic voice is powerful and personal, while her aesthetic vocabulary is unmistakable. The Grand BAZ'ART is a yearly outsider art festival, located in the French town of Gisors in Normandy. In 2018, the festival will celebrate its tenth edition. (France)

Sunday 6th May 2018

Out by Art

From September 2017 until April 2018 the film project 'Out by Art' was carried out within the Nordic Outsider Art network (NOA). Founded in 2015, NOA has five professional Nordic Outsider Art organisations as members. The main objectives of NOA are to strengthen connections between the actors of Outsider Art in Nordic countries and to develop new collaborative methods for the creative work in supported studios. NOA seeks to advance the quality of artistic practice, encouraging innovative solutions. NOA aims make a difference in individual artistic development as well as in the wider field of Nordic Outsider Art. The films are directed by: Aleksí Pietikäinen, Kaarisilta (FI), Birkir Sigurðsson, List án landamæra (IS), David Viborg Jensen, Gaia (DK), Hugo Karlsson, Inuti (SE), Marianne Schmidt (the documentary film director), Inuti (SE), Niko Liikanen, Kettuki (FI), Project coordinators: Sven Blume, filmmaker and Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa, artist. The project is funded by Kulturbryggan, Sweden.

Venture Arts

Venture Arts is an artist studio based in Hulme, Manchester working with people of all ages to make and create new visual arts work. Working predominantly with learning disabled artists, their vision is a world in which people with learning disabilities are empowered, celebrated, included and valued in the arts, culture and society. To this end they run a wide variety of artist led visual arts programmes, working within education and in the cultural sector to help shape a new cultural landscape where people with learning disabilities reach their potential as artists, curators, critics, audiences, participants and advocates. (United Kingdom)

Look Kloser

With a love of the arts and a passion for people, Look Kloser: Creative & Performing Arts aims to give people opportunities to explore their creative talents and interests. With a person centred approach, individuals and groups are mentored through a variety of creative processes. Look Kloser not only strives to provide a stimulating environment for creativity, the focus is also to integrate the film/art/performances produced within the wider community; most importantly, on the same platform as other professional artists. Collaboration has been vital in developing work to share. Most recently Look Kloser was commissioned by Paint The Town festival to open an arts festival in Medway. (United Kingdom)

Joy of Sound

Joy of Sound (JOS) volunteers have been developing and providing music and multi-arts workshops and events for disabled and impaired people, their support networks, and communities since 2000. We host year-round weekly sessions in three London Boroughs and deliver extensive outreach in advocating for equitable society. JOS overcomes social, physical and health related barriers to participation by enabling and acknowledging creative expression of people of all abilities as equals.

Our workshops are uniquely open and accessible to all-comers of any background or circumstances. We produce bespoke and adapted acoustic music instruments, access devices and facilitatory approaches that enable universal access. (United Kingdom)