

**Minutes of the meeting to discuss/establish a Visual Arts Group in Orkney  
31st March 2007, held at the studio of the Papdale Primary School Artists in Residence**

**Present**

Christopher Prendergast  
Matilda Tumim  
Rik Hammond (Temporary Chair)  
Clare Gee  
Frances Pelly  
Diana Leslie  
John Shapter  
Peter Brown  
Gloria Wallington  
Laura Drever  
Rebecca Marr  
Mark Jenkins  
John Cumming

**Apologies**

Malcolm Olva  
Carol Dunbar  
Brendan Colvert  
Rosey Priestman  
Doug Muir  
Dominique Cameron  
Louise Scott  
Sylvia Hays  
Robin Bowness  
Sheena Graham-George  
Isobel Gardner  
Colin Kirkpatrick  
Ali Gunn  
Britt Harcus  
Christine Harcus

**Formal welcome and background to the aims and objectives of the group**

Following an opportunity for a coffee and informal chat, Rik Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their interest in the setting up of a group.

Rik explained that the idea for an artist-led visual arts group had partly come out of the visit of four Orkney artists to the HI~Arts Visual Arts Gathering in Ullapool in November 2006, followed by discussions with, and advice from, Roxane Permar, from Shetland's visual arts group called Veer North.

From an initial mailing to around 50 visual artists in Orkney, 27 or so had shown an interest in forming a constituted group, and the decision had been taken to hold this meeting, in order to pursue the formation of a group.

**Practical discussion about the workings of the group including potential for charging membership fees**

Rik explained that the model under which Veer North operates would seem like a good model for an Orkney based group and following a general discussion, the aims and objectives of the group were agreed as:

- ***Facilitating a supportive and professional network for visual artists in Orkney;***
- ***Encouraging dialogue and critical debate within the field of visual arts in Orkney and beyond;***
- ***Supporting and promoting experimental, research based, conceptual and collaborative visual arts;***
- ***Promoting dialogue between artists, galleries, arts workers, educators and the public;***
- ***Raising awareness of what visual artists do and how they contribute to the wider community;***
- ***Facilitating projects and events which develop contemporary visual art practice in Orkney;***
- ***Encouraging and developing creative opportunities for visual artists within Orkney; and***
- ***Supporting creative opportunities for local visual artists beyond Orkney.***

It was also agreed that:

- ***The group will aim to become a legal constituted group with a bank account;***
- ***The Committee will have a rolling chair and minute taker;***
- ***The group will have an initial membership fee for full members of £10, and associate membership at £5 per year; and***
- ***The criteria for membership would follow the model set by Veer North in Shetland***

## **Election of Committee**

The following Committee positions were proposed and agreed:

**Membership Secretary** - vacant

**Treasurer** - Frances Pelly (temporarily until August 2007, then Laura Drever)

**Networker** - Clare Gee

**Archivist** - Christopher Prendergast

**Publicity** - vacant

**Events / Exhibitions** - vacant

**Website / ICT** - Rik Hammond

A number of people felt unable to commit to Committee positions due to other commitments, but are keen to be active members and support those on the Committee. It is hoped that the vacant positions will be filled by other people who were unable to attend the meeting.

## **Any Other Competent Business**

John Shapter explained that the St Margaret's Hope based 'Flying Pigs' Artist Group will be holding an art making event on 20<sup>th</sup> May, to which everyone is invited. A previous 'Art on the Beach' day in January was very successful. Details from John Shapter.

Peter Brown said that he would be keen to make his gallery space in Westray available to the group.

On behalf of those who had arranged the meeting, Rik thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and supporting the idea for a group so strongly. He also thanked Christopher and Matilda for hosting the meeting in their studio, and for showing the group their residency work in the main school buildings.

*Meeting ended at 4pm.*