Case Study: Exchanges

An ongoing programme of opportunities to explore visual art and performance inspired by the artworks exhibited at the New Art Centre. The project is led by the Roche Court Educational Trust in partnership with Pavilion Dance South West.

The project demonstrates how creative practice is enhanced through collaboration and the multi-sensory experience of working within the landscape.
Developing skills and creating new work

Exchanges has been running for 3 years. Over 250 dance students from schools, colleges and universities have attended workshop and research days at the New Art Centre, Roche Court to explore the exhibited sculptures as stimulus for creating movement and new performances.

In 2014 dancers studied the work of Anthony Caro and his consideration of architectural space, Barbara Hepworth and the importance of form and landscape, and Michael Craig-Martin and the use of everyday objects.

In 2015, the project ‘A Sense of Place’ considered how artists created site-specific work at the New Art Centre. Dancers considered form, space and shape in their performances, and identified similarities in artistic processes between dancers and artists in their consideration of these elements.

By considering sculpture within the landscape and environment as a starting point, students develop their understanding of visual language. They explore how observations and discussion can be articulated and developed through practice in the studio and the great potential of exchange across arts disciplines.

The resulting work is shared at a seminar and performance day at Pavilion Dance South West in Bournemouth. The project emphasises peer learning, inviting all the participants of varying ages to learn from one another. Past students return as ambassadors who work alongside tutors to encourage new students.

Achievements, outcomes and reflections

- Continuing professional development for creative practitioners
- Opportunities to interpret forms in the landscape
- The outdoor spaces created new processes and multi-sensory experiences for students whose learning is in the majority indoors. This inspired new creative responses
- Improved confidence in talking about modern and contemporary art by introducing visual artists and their ideas for making sculpture.
- The shared seminar and performance of students’ work provided further engagement, learning and reflection across both artforms.

Commissioners, key project partners, stakeholders and funders:

The Roche Court Educational Trust
Pavilion Dance South West

The Roche Court Educational Trust
NewArtCentre.

http://rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk/projects-2/exchanges/