

In-Habit.

In Habit #2 – October 13th – 19th 2008

Invitation to an instant.

Guest #1

Cultural Exchange:

Focussed on Vietnamese community and how exchange might occur:

Interested in the French Catholic connection and its relationship to the Vietnamese community.

Some sort of blessing would bring in the Vietnamese community and particularly if Buddhists were brought in as well.

Multicultural choir – Footscray – commission new works in different languages.

For a Vietnamese community you will need to use the grandeur and beauty of those buildings refurbished at Abb. Con. They would not be interested in the "grungier" aspects

Best to engage via – church – school – institutions rather than arts or art. Local leaders and traders

Vietnamese have connection with French especially through Pho cooking. Could have 'The Art of Pho'.

Guest # 2

Artistic Mission:

Responses to or engagement with space and spaces

An open exchange with history

Multi arts perspective and conversation b/n disciplines

Site specific events that incorporate a multitude of art forms.

Invite artists to work together in response to site

E.g. a cluster of artists is given a room and is asked to build a response to it – "a resonance"

Guest # 3

Cultural exchange:

via expression of 'story' and creating dialogue b/n artists and story of place.

Particularly focussed on Wurundjeri heritage.

It is what could make the cultural exchange unique.

Artistic mission:

Multi art form - responding to the different layers of the cultural landscape

Guest # 4**Artistic Mission:**

Link practice to lace making and laundries – artists having a relationship with texture and textile.

Connections b/n contemporary artists and Guilds: - weavers, needlepoint, Craft Vic. Could assist with this.

Link this to iconography

Guest # 5**Cultural Exchange:**

Based on engaging with history – the people – the spaces

Artistic:

Multi disciplinary – multi art form practices interacting

Guest # 6**Cultural Exchange:**

Space given over to workshops, for sharing knowledge and to exchange ideas. Need an information base available referring to the community in which you're building ideas

Food is always an important part of cultural exchange

Teaching or opportunities for sharing knowledge

A survey of everyone's interests on site

Artistic mission:

What the "space" provokes for the artists

A new community to explore

New process of collaboration

Convent provides opportunity to do something BIG and EXPANSIVE spatially

Guest # 7**Artistic:**

Site specific responses

Could be historical, spatially interpretive

Story telling Festival

Stories from outside and stories from inside
Responses to architecture

Guest # 8 & 9

Cultural Exchange:

Comes from history of site being next to an ancient Wurundjeri meeting place

This place is like a "well". You look into it deeply and you see everything that creates identity, all the levels, layers.

Bring artists from different creative fields and cultures together to meet and create work together
It's a place and a roof under which research can thrive.

Artistic:

Give a raw space to a particular community for a month and they create their world. They then take an audience through for example 8 **different worlds**/cultures. Audience has role of refugee or outsider.

Could also match a community group with an artist and the artist works from the convent base.

What is the longing of each group and how is it expressed
"Internal museums" like languages saved from lost cultures.
Ideally a theatre laboratory

Guest # 10

Cultural exchange:

Artists working with cultural groups and responding to space and community

The exchange needs to be embedded in space/place/time
Artists need TIME for their work/exploration

Cooking together

Artistic:

History of spaces interacting with contemporary interpretations

A core group of artists would come in and work residually

Step 1: Initial exploration of place and space through own art form

Step 2: Tie this in with what is happening in local community

One space links to a theme e.g. seclusion/inclusion and a number of different groups respond to

- the space

- to each other
- to their different art forms

Guest # 11

Cultural exchange:

Between city and country

Between cities and countries

Exchange should be able to operate in both directions

Needs to be multi disciplinary

Collaborative work: this would occur organically just through artists coming together with the *intent* of working collaboratively.

Dislocate and relocate – good for art

Need mechanisms for getting out and experiencing 'the other'

It's the experience that informs the art so you **don't** go there first with a ready made project

The experience is – the landscape

- the people

Define CONTEXT of cultural exchange – this creates a latch handle and immediate personal association for potential artists.

You'll go back to a place if:

meeting other artists

sharing "the experience"

sense that it's a place of fermentation of ideas

Build mechanisms where

- artists are obliged to make relationships in order to realise their projects

- artists are obliged to find their own way in 'the experience' and exchange

- learning and knowledge sharing CRITICAL.

Artistic:

Artists across art forms responding to site and place

Live together share experience

Create annual themes – e.g. religion and what does it mean to have an original purpose

E.g. migration and language – ideas and structures from a foreign place

Come to a place WITHOUT a project and the project will be influenced by the experience.

Guest #12 & 13

Cultural Exchange:

is about recognition and an accumulation of experiences:

Recognition of cultural difference already as an unconscious engagement with other

Recognition of the history and unknown history of the other

Research and Development spaces that have people working alongside each other.

Place where learning is situated.

Multi art form

Full range of artistic practice

Artistic:

There's a very strong connection to the river here.

Wurundjeri – the farm land, washing. It's an avenue or conduit of destination

All that's here as a site and place needs to be respected through artistic practice

Guest #14 & 15

Cultural Exchange:

Based on "transformation"

Needs a capacity for residency to give time to reflection

Interpretation of place, time and space

The art from it becomes a documentation of "the outsiders regard"

Exchange between the regions and the city

Explores at the same time archive and resonance

Artistic:

Site specific delving through the layers

Guest #16

Cultural Exchange:

Is a meeting

The meeting even of just two artists who say, "I make for you and you make for me"

Cultural Exchange is about making something for someone else and taking it to their place.

It's where a home is beyond the tribe and understanding that we're part of a much bigger family

Artistic:

The art from cultural exchange is a dialogue between the work and within the work

It's "how we riff" "how we improvise".

The cold with the warm

No set projects. The project arises from the exchange.

Guest #17 & 18

Cultural Exchange:

Needs to have a simple objective

Artistic:

Rather than a particular model have a particular focus.

Here there are layers of stories so e.g. "Centre of Narrative and Stories"

Artists work in any medium they choose.

The various communities would see their stories reflected in different mediums

Not so much history as narrative

Investigation of what form of narrative for what story

Girls' names changed on arrival to begin new identity – already history of split narrative within the one story

The grand narrative and the micro narrative

Site/meeting place/cultural exchange is a story in itself.

Guest # 19

Cultural Exchange

You want the rigour but you want the community.

It's a question of how you make the community feel responsible for maintaining something?

Define what the ongoing sustainable relationship between rigour and community is, and use this as the basis for exchange.

Artistic

Site specific, responsive, working on relational aesthetic and possibly with a strong visual arts placement

Can't make art form or mission too much of an issue as it will then become too precise and stultifying.

On other hand a lack of direction brings a lack of precision to the thinking.

Guest # 20

Cultural Exchange

It's all about molecular collisions, synergy, conversions, and mechanisms for circulation that bring about those collisions, memory and connections.

It's receptiveness to an environment

Artistic:

Taps into memory contained in the spaces

Responds to a history within the environment

Contextualises memory

Provokes the question: How do you sit in the space and where do they sit in terms of your own history

Guest # 21

Cultural Exchange:

Exchange comes about taking a voyage together and sharing the same space

It's eating and talking together – finding out about each other's lives

Artistic

Begins with exploration of space

Finding the intimacy not just the BIG WOW

6 artists – 6 different sites on the one site

Artists need to be provided a mission e.g. How will you reveal the story?

Guest # 22 and 23

Cultural Exchange

Cultural Exchange is a continual act of translation

Where there's collaborative practice there's translation

Art forms "translate"

The transposition is a translation

It's about people being together

Multi modal or multi art form

People working, doing, building things together and working on broader tasks that are outside art

It's the dialogue

You need to be available to host – "an outsider is brought in by an insider"

A number of different people bring you into their circles and the circles need to be different.

You need a number of "meshing" communities.

Artistic

Artistic:

Centre for translation:

Translation is embedded in a cultural centre through language, collaborative practice, and art

Guest # 24

Cultural Exchange

You just need to ask, "what is the experience?"

What is the artist's "experience" of place?

What experience is provided?

It's "place exploration"

Cultural exchange is "a well"

It's a well spring and a reflection at the same time

And what's attractive in a well? It's to drink from it.

Artistic:

The artists respond to “place”

The contribution or “legacy” of the artist is their choice.

Guest # 25**Cultural Exchange:**

Cultural Exchange builds a chain.

There's mentoring

There's someone who's a listener who takes the information, transforms it and then passes it on.

The dialogue, teaching, or mentoring is central.

Guest # 26**Artistic:**

The site is the medium

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