

Summary of ARTiculation Partners' Meeting

23rd July 2015, Roche Court



On Thursday 23rd July, twenty eight ARTiculation partners visited Roche Court to celebrate the success of ARTiculation 2015 and to discuss new initiatives for ARTiculation 2016.

Representatives from eighteen partner organisations attended, four from our universities partners, and included delegates from Arnolfini, The Association of Art Historians, The Barber Institute, Chatsworth House, Clare College, University of Cambridge, The Creative Foundation, Folkestone, Ikon Gallery, Lismore Castle Arts, The National Gallery, The Royal Academy, Saatchi Gallery, The Sainsbury Centre, Spike Island, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Watts Gallery and The Whitworth.

The day began with a tour of the New Art Centre sculpture park followed by a presentation from Jen Ridding (Access and Learning Officer, Barber Institute of Fine Arts) and Simon Taylor (Head of Learning, Ikon Gallery) on their collaborative work in Birmingham. After a delicious lunch in the sun delegates visited the indoor gallery spaces to view exhibitions by Barbara Hepworth, Howard Hodgkin and Conrad Shawcross. We concluded with group discussions on future initiatives and a sharing of ideas and experiences.

Developing a Regional Partnership: Gallery and University collaboration.

Jen Ridding and Simon Taylor explained the consortia approach to audience development in Birmingham.

The Barber Institute of Fine Art is part of the University of Birmingham. The gallery also houses the History of Art department and is well-placed to introduce school/college pupils to university.



As part of ARTiculation in October 2014, six PhD students from the History of Art department received specialist training from Q-Art (a London-based organisation specialising in critical analysis who regularly work with ARTiculation) that enabled them to deliver 'Crit' sessions to sixth-form students. The subsequent workshop not only introduced sixth-formers to ARTiculation, but brought a new audience to the Barber Institute.

This autumn, PhD students will be joined by undergraduates for Q-Art training, and 'Crit' sessions will be delivered at both the Barber Institute and Ikon Gallery. A follow-up masterclass delivered by the University students will provide additional support to participants in the Birmingham regional heat.

New Initiatives for ARTiculation 2015/2016



It became apparent throughout the day that a collaborative approach amongst venues was the most successful way to approach new schools and deliver ARTiculation workshops.

The university link offered an additional level of engagement. Hosting events in university venues introduces students to higher education, which is valued by all schools for raising students' aspirations. Making links

with Widening Participation departments at local universities will help recruit schools to participate.

It was agreed that teacher engagement played an important role in schools applying to participate in ARTiculation. Part of the success of the Birmingham sessions was that teachers did not need to accompany their sixth form students, who attended independently from six different schools after school hours.

We agreed that one of the best ways to recruit schools was to meet directly with both the staff and students, and a proposal was that ARTiculation alumni return to their schools to introduce the ARTiculation Prize to students. The importance of the cross-curricular links in ARTiculation need to be further emphasised in order to encourage schools to take part.