Abstract

Directional Forces: A Short Residency Model For The Development Of Creative Practice For Doctoral Students, Early Career Researchers And Creative Professionals.

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In 2012, Dr Hedley Roberts established a two week residency at Artoll in Bedburgh-Hau, an established arts centre located in psychiatric clinic town near to Kleve, Germany. The residency was designed as an intensive two week opportunity for students of the Professional Doctorate in Fine Art at the University of East London to undertake a new body of work alongside established mid-career artists and experienced academic researchers. All of the student participants in the first residency have since successfully passed viva examinations at first attempt, citing the residency as a key contributing factor to the development of their practice. Since 2012, over 80 participants have taken part in eight further Directional Forces residency projects in Germany, Italy, Greece, Serbia, Turkey and the UK. Participants have since gone on to successful completion of PHDs, to develop their own residency projects, secured professorships in academic institutions, taken part in group exhibitions, and developed solo shows of work that began whilst on the residency. Directional Forces has recently been established as a Research Centre at the University of East London support Early Career Researchers, Doctorate and Post-Doctorate study, and to
develop ‘practice as research’ networks. This paper will present some observations on the methods and structure of the project, first hand reports from participants in the residencies; examples of work that they undertook and outcomes that came as a direct result.

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