

## **Alex Hoare – Glass Designer (and museum installations / exhibitions)**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 8.30am, The Light Factory, Worthy Lane, Winchester**

The interview will relate to Alex's experience of designing for museum installations and her involvement with curators and stakeholders / funding organisations.

Questions relating to the influence in her designs by external and internal sources will be asked.

Discussion regarding where the visitor sits in the process of designing museum installations will be planned.

### **Background information:**

1. I would like to start by asking you about your role / craft as a Glass Designer / Performer
2. What led you to perform and then design with glass? (education / work)
3. Has your role changed over the time you have been designing? If so, what were the influencing factors?
4. Can you tell me about your design / performance work for museum installations / exhibitions?
5. What or who has influenced your involvement in design?
6. Do you feel you are a creator through your design work, performer, educator or a curator (shaping what the audience views)?
7. Which do you feel is the more important role, performer, educator, curator or creator? Or are they intertwined?
8. Do you feel that there is sometimes a conflict between your different roles: designer, performer, educator, curator?

### **Xplosive Acts - Process for design / installations / performance curation:**

1. You have completed very many installations and performances, would you explain one or two that mean the most to you as a designer (or performer)?
2. Which do you think was the most successful from the venue's perspective?
3. Is there one project that changed considerably from initial concept to final outcome due to mostly external influences?
4. One of your projects, 'Font' 2010 located in Winchester Cathedral, is one that layers in a glass bowl, the names of ancient inhabitants of a long gone abbey with the names of the people living on the site where it once stood. Font also has a soundscape singing the names as they would have been sung in the abbey 900 years ago. This resonates with the project I have recently done for Beaulieu Abbey where characters from a bygone era are brought back to life via illustration, stories of their day to day life with their own signature music composed specifically for them. The Abbey project faltered / altered on occasion due to external conditions such as

available time, budget and technology from its original concept. Was this the same for Font?

5. If yes, what was this and what (if any) impact did it have on the final outcome for the visitor?
6. As an important historical area of Winchester, did you find the research aspect of this project more time consuming than other projects, or were you able to work with an archivist / curator?
7. How big was the team working on this project?
8. Where was your 'role' in the hierarchy of the team?
9. I am interested in the variety of your roles and how they integrate (or perhaps conflict) with each other in creating a performance for visitors / attendees. What is the normal sequence of events for creating new installations / performances?
10. Who initiates the content for a particular performance, i.e. is it a request from the organising venue, or from an idea you or other stakeholders may have, or a mix?
11. Can you describe what is usually the biggest influence in the final concept? ( i.e. stakeholders input, budget considerations)
12. In your experience from previous events, does the finished performance follow the original concept / reason?
13. If not, why do you think this is the case? (budget, time?)
14. If yes, do you feel this could be achieved in a better way / differently for a more successful / engaging performance?
15. In developing / designing a performance or installation, is the 'audience' involved in any part of the process?
16. If yes, how and when?
17. What are the processes for gauging the success of a performance / installation?
18. If you could choose, which role(s) would you prefer to relinquish (keep) if required?

Thank you.