

News release

To be released: Immediately
Date: Monday, 30 October 2006

Artists overcome dyslexia during National Dyslexia Awareness Week.

Compared with the rest of the population, there is a higher incidence of dyslexia amongst artists. As artists are increasingly expected to complete grant application forms, or present written statements and proposals in order to progress their careers, dyslexia can prevent them from fulfilling their potential.

As part of National Dyslexia Awareness Week, Commissions East is holding a seminar for artists on Friday, 10 November in Cambridge. It will discuss artists' experience of dyslexia, share information and advice, and demonstrate that artists can still manage their practices successfully and inventively. The seminar will increase awareness of dyslexia and help artists gain access to opportunities to make and show work.

As well as the opportunity for discussion, during the seminar there will be presentations from three high-profile speakers:

Bridget Green is Operations Manager and Head of Human Resources at the British Dyslexia Association (BDA).

Gona Rankin is the Dyslexia Co-ordinator at the Royal College of Art. She has undertaken ground-breaking research into how dyslexia affects artists' studio practice, as well as their reading and writing.

Zoë Walker and Neil Bromwich are artists who were commissioned for 'Coast', a series of commissions that took place in Essex in 2004, managed by Commissions East. Zoë Walker has dyslexia.

Commissions East

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Registered charity number 1045657. Company registration number 2802661. VAT registration number 636778589.

This event has been organised by Commissions East with the support of Huttson Lo, Diversity Officer from Arts Council England, East.

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Editors notes:

1. The seminar takes place on Friday, 10 November 2006 between 10.00am and 4.00pm at Arts Council England, East, 48-49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LR. Approximately 30 artists from the East of England will attend.
2. Commissions East is the visual arts development agency for the East of England, providing an advisory and management service for commissioners, a programme of special projects addressing new areas of visual arts practice and a range of services for artists. www.commissionseast.org.uk
3. Bridget Green will give an overview of the work of the British Dyslexia Association (BDA). The BDA is the voice of dyslexic people. Their vision is that of "a dyslexia friendly society that enables dyslexic people to reach their potential". The BDA also stage the annual campaign National Dyslexia Week. Bridget will discuss how dyslexia affects different people and the extra skills and abilities dyslexics may have. She will also describe the support that is available. www.bdadyslexia.org.uk
4. Gona Rankin will talk briefly about dyslexia in art and design and how the Royal College of Art supports their dyslexic and dyspraxic students. She will illustrate her presentation with case studies showing how students have responded creatively to their dyslexia. www.rca.ac.uk
5. Zoë Walker is an artist who has dyslexia. She will talk about how she deals with her dyslexia in her collaborative practice with Neil Bromwich. Details of their current project PANACEAHOTHOUSE, which is showing at the Cornerhouse Manchester from 6 October to 20 November, are available on www.walkerandbromwich.org.uk or www.panaceaproject.org

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