

Michiko Fujii

www.michikofujii.co.uk E: info@michikofujii.co.uk T: 07795 566 762

As a visual artist, Michiko utilises traditional and non-traditional media. She is in the habit of recycling and re-appropriating materials and forms collections and archives of photos, relics, marks, scribbles and snippets of dialogue - all everyday mundane phenomena - to construct narratives and journey with others. The narrative tells of people and their journeys, stories and 'small fortunes'. Fragments recall movements, places, emotions, colours and atmosphere. The work is a process, a collection of documents - a diary of visual, multi-sensory and conceptual explorations - a celebration of life and transformation.

Michiko's work demonstrates a preoccupation with people and their interactions within a particular place. Amongst other roles, she positions herself as artist-educator, researcher, facilitator and communicator. Observations, collective dialogue, interaction and reflection are emphasised as essential components of the creative process. Michiko encourages experimentation and innovation, aiming to introduce others to working in different ways. Her strengths lie in noticing the overlooked and unspoken. She hopes to offer and communicate a fresh viewpoint and promote collective, creative troubleshooting.

Education and Continuing Professional Development

2005 – 2008: MA (P/T) Art & Design in Education

Institute of Education, University of London.

2005: Arts-Based Practice in Youth Justice Settings

Institute for Arts & Offenders, attended at Lanternhouse, Ulverston, Cumbria.

2004: ESF Continuing Professional Development

for Artists in Engaged Practice, University of Salford.

2001: BA (Hons) Visual Arts (Awarded 2.1)

University of Salford - including a Socrates-Erasmus exchange at l'Université d'Aix-Marseille, France, Departement d'Arts Plastiques and a residency at Artoll, Bedburg-Hau, Germany.

1997 – 1998: (B-Tec) Diploma in Art & Design Foundation (Merit)

Manchester Metropolitan University, School of Art & Design.

Exhibitions, Projects and Residencies

2006 – 2009: Creative Collaboration

Creative Collaborator based in 2 Sure Start Children's Centres in South Manchester. Facilitating creative learning; managing change within the centre's learning environment through collaboration with centre staff. Inspired by the 'Hundred Languages' of Reggio Emilia, currently focusing on embedding Creative Collaboration as a practical creative approach within Sure Start centres, continuing action research around the question, 'How do we make visible children's voices?'

2008: The Big Draw at Manchester Art Gallery

Created and facilitated a day-long 'shadow and light laboratory' drop-in workshop for young children and adults.

2008: Renaissance North West, Museums and Galleries Hub Project at Manchester Art Gallery, with St. Peter's Children's Centre

Combining action research, reflection and evaluation with child-led gallery exploration and activities. Working with children aged 3-5 years and EY practitioners in the gallery over 4 weeks. The project also acted as a consultation process out of which a specially designed monthly family art club has developed.

2007: 'Creative Collaborator as Map-Maker and Documenter'

MA in Art and Design in Education Dissertation Exhibition at the Institute of Education, University of London.

2007: Renaissance North West, Museums and Galleries Hub Project at the Whitworth Art Gallery, with Slade Lane Children's Centre.

Working with children aged 2-4 years and EY practitioners and parents in the gallery and children's centre over 4 weeks. The project incorporated child-led gallery exploration and activities which included den-building, story-telling, painting, documentation and photography.

2006: Art Residency Project with students, involving paper-art and shadow play workshops at Harrop Fold High School, Little Hulton, Greater Manchester.

2005: The Big Draw

Working with fellow artist Stevie Cohen, at Victoria Baths, Hathersage Rd, Longsight. Facilitating workshops with schools across Greater Manchester.

Step Up School Arts Festival

Art Residency at Little Sutton Primary School, Cheshire, working with pupils to create 'the world's longest paper doll chain' record, sited at the Bridgewater Hall / Great Northern. Manchester in July 2005.

Art Residency at St. Mary's R.C. Primary school, Eccles.

Collaborative project researching issues relating to individuality, diversity, identity and empathy.

'Transient' twoeightone at the Liverpool Biennial

Group show and installation at the Marriot Hotel, Queens Sq., Liverpool.

'Brewery Open III'

Gallery exhibition at the Brewery Art Centre and 'Kendal Windows on Art' Festival - a high street shop windows exhibition, Kendal Town Centre.

International Mail Art Project with 'twoeightone'

Exhibition in a high-rise tower block, Cannon Hussey Court, Salford. Drawings, working with acetate and fax machine/ photocopier manipulation.

2004: Images Collide

Manchester Art & Crafts Market, Albert Square, Manchester.

2003 – 2004: Personal Study / Research trip to São Paulo and Jacarei, Brazil. Working independently and with São Paulo-based artists Albano Afonso, Sandra Cinto and Margarida Holler. Documenting Margarida Holler's work and attending group sessions in the 'atelier' of Albano Afonso and Sandra Cinto.

2003: 'twoeightone' present work at the 'Great Northern' complex in Manchester city centre. A showcase of work of 30 contemporary artists. Temporary site-specific installation in a dimly-lit space; included a mass of small paper sculptures and drawing with shadow and light.

2002: Art works created (canvases 2x 4m x 2m) in collaboration with the 'Still Kiddin' amateur theatre company in Rouen, France.

2001 – 2002: Production and sole presentation of a contemporary art / music programme in French in Rouen, France on 'RCR' 107.1 FM.

Relevant Professional Experience

2007 – Ongoing: Creative Practitioner

Running workshops and education sessions at Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Developing, planning and leading workshops for children, families, carers and children's centre staff. Currently responsible for designing and facilitating the Mini Art Club sessions at Manchester Art Gallery (<http://www.manchestergalleries.org/families/family-art-clubs/>) Implementing exciting, inclusive, creative responses to art works – providing multi-sensory journeys and explorer's trails around the galleries. Responsible for budgeting, documenting and evaluating sessions.

2006 – 2008: Youth Education Support Officer

The Vegetarian Society, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Developing educational resources and 'Young Veggie' website; working on campaigns; coordinating School Speaker service; responding to youth and teacher requests; attending festivals and events; sharing administrative duties and managing data in Raiser's Edge and Excel.

2006: Aim Higher Project Coordinator

Artists and Education, School of Visual Art, University of Salford

Co-ordinating the Aim Higher scheme; interviewing, recruiting and mentoring student associates on placement in secondary schools and colleges.