

Artist residency

Trevor Pitt

28 September – 7 November 2015

Spacex, Exeter's contemporary visual arts organisation, has selected Trevor Pitt as the first artist for their new artist-in-residence programme. The Birmingham-based practitioner will spend six weeks living and working in Exeter this autumn.

Pitt's appointment follows the success of Spacex's online fundraising campaign. During May and June 2015, hundreds of people contributed a total of £10,077 to fund this residency and one further residency next year.

Pitt was selected from an open call for artists whose practice involves collaboration. Spacex received 160 applications from across the UK. Spacex Project Manager Kathy Norris says: "We felt that the quality and diversity of Trevor's practice had the potential to make a real impact."

Pitt will use the residency to explore the change that Spacex is undergoing, its relationships with existing and potential audiences and its position in the cultural ecology of the city and the South West. This will include working with project partners that include other Exeter-based organisations and education institutions.

Pitt says: *Collaborating is central to my practice. I like the way it allows things to be permeable and creates an 'in' to contemporary art and vice versa. For me, collaboration should not be comfortable, but rewarding. Most importantly it should be challenging to mutually push the limits— push people outside their comfort zones and flatten authorship.*

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Pitt has a track-record of working with arts organisations to explore their function and relationship with audiences. His work with Spacex will be informed by a long-term collaboration with mac birmingham, where he has challenged the role of the curator by inviting local art clubs, youth groups and other members of the public to participate in planning and delivering the gallery programme.

Trevor Pitt's residency at Spacex would not be possible without the support of everyone who backed the project through the Kickstarter fundraising campaign, and the artists who generously donated their work, time and energy. In addition, funding from the Foyle Foundation and support from project partners including University of Exeter and Exeter College will ensure the success of this residency.

For further information, please contact Kathy Norris on 01392 431 786 or kathy@spacex.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Spacex enables access to contemporary visual art in the South West through a programme of projects and events that invite public participation and critical debate. The organisation works with artists and curators to realise ambitions, pursue new directions and take creative risks. As an educational charity, Spacex has an excellent record of delivering innovative and accessible learning projects. Spacex has reached an exciting and pivotal point in its forty-year history. In response to funding reductions and a desire to evaluate its role, the organisation is currently exploring ideas for new ways of working. In place of a year-round exhibition programme, the organisation now hosts residencies and produces projects and arts commissions, often in collaboration with other organisations.

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Trevor Pitt is an artist-curator who has been devising socially engaged projects in public contexts for over 15 years. His work emerges from the social and cultural context within which it is produced and he adopts a spectrum of collaborative strategies and methods of enquiry. The role he takes within a project may be as an artist, a commissioner, a curator or a consultant. He has worked biannually with mac birmingham (Midlands Arts Centre) since 2010. Projects include anticurate (2011), which challenged the authorial position of the curator, and The Open Project (2013), which took a critical view of the open exhibition. The Cannon Hill Art School (2015) was a platform for people who did not make it to art school. This eight-week programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and personal tutelage from established artists culminated in the Cannon Hill Art School Summer Show.

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