

Project Details

The Spontaneous Combustion exhibition is unique and is about getting rid of stigma based on the them/us principle. It is our belief that 'widening participation' is not just a fashionable catch phrase, but also a totally achievable goal. We are all of us, reliant on both our mental health and physical well-being. We are asking a public audience to respond to our show, whilst considering the issues raised, to interact with us by looking at the exhibits and performances based in and around this themed show, lingering long enough to consider some of the issues raised. We would like this event to be the beginning of a series, which, we hope will open up a dialogue, delving into issues to do with quality, validity and subjective perception and psychology of difference.

How many times have we bemoaned the lack of any obvious energy and passion in the works of 'art' we see around us? To us, there appears to be an unacceptable bias toward works of a conceptual nature, the tendency being to sacrifice the inherently human qualities of their makers, in favour of emotionless, albeit clever, but nevertheless robotic status quo. All three of us strongly believe that it is not necessary to enforce this surgical dislocation of soul in order to produce culturally relevant works of art. As makers and educators ourselves, we are acutely aware of the diversity of responses, which individuals have to the creative process. Under our very noses we watch students learning skills and processes which give them the keys to unlock the door to endless possibility, not only to a world of concepts, aesthetics and technical expertise, but also to the continually changing INTERIOR world. The triumphantly passion filled world of each individual human being and spirit. An interest in outsider art is necessarily shared by all three of us, all three of us questioning the very 'notion' of this label. This feels like an exciting beginning to a great adventure.

Sub Section

The exhibition is to be divided into three main displays;
*** ref:- Nutshell project detail for more detail

Invited guest artists, some with International artist/academic level expertise, some with national reputation, plus some carefully chosen unknown but brilliant artists, the only criteria being to respond to the theme of spontaneity and to provide an artist statement which will appear next to the submitted art work. All have agreed that individual names of exhibitors will not appear directly by their work in order to try and discourage viewers' prejudice and to spark debate. The Private View will be a 'massive happening', complete with Avante Garde Poetess, spontaneously responding to the work that she sees, music, fireworks

Field of Flowers arrangements (indoors/outdoors) - an open submission event for makers/artists/designers living in Cornwall to create flowers, which will retail at fixed unit price according to scale, rather than biography of maker. Selection, and therefore quality judgements will be made by the public themselves via their visual preference rather than investment preference. HE students, both Cornwall College and UCF are also invited to submit work for

selection process. Standards are at the forefront of our minds, and one of the areas that we will be addressing in open forum debate. CCA now has an education room that will be fully equipped in time for September 06. All relevant information can be accessed on the Spontaneous Combustion website, which will be linked to Cornwall College public info research site, CCA, and Creative Skills.

Installation of community project- clay workshops being held throughout Spring/Summer, inclusive of all sections of the community, each participant creating 20 figures in 20 minutes, all work unsigned, to be displayed, en masse, in a Gormley-esque interior 'field'.

We hope that you see this exhibition for what it is, in the spirit in which it was intended -A glorious showcase of the passionate and the intuitive, our way of celebrating difference, in dedication to those of us that just are!