

# Project profile

## Brief description

The Live Art Garden Initiatives' *Programme of Live Art Practice Sessions*. Artist-led sessions facilitating collaborative and directed experimentation by each artist in contrasting parks, gardens, and natural or landscaped environments.

## Who

Artists who have participated: Charlotte Bernstein, Regine Elliot, Sonia Davin-Smith, Lauren Goode, Claire Keating, Maria Llanderas, Fabrizio Manco, Helen Palmer, Carla Vendramin.

## Where and when

Weekly practice sessions: 3 x 4 hrs site-based; and 1 x 4 hrs studio-based. Monthly: site practice sessions at further-a-field locations. Nov 2004 to Dec 2005.

## Summary

The programme of live art practice sessions was designed to facilitate carrying out research in line with the *Research Practice Directions*. These are to:

- Carry out *in situ* experimentation in contrasting parks, gardens and other outdoor landscapes sensitively engaging with unique environments and contingent events.
- Consider the site as one's body in extension and inseparable – a connected live architecture unfolding – a multiplicity of actual and virtual dimensions.
- Work directly with the context and event of the 'live' situation attending to it as a moving phonic surface – of speeds and affects – and not as a representational 'setting'.
- Evolve the focus of the performance-research from concentrating explorations in the medium of movement: that of the performers in connection with the moving surfaces of spatial and temporal landscape – an energized 'live' canvas.
- Explore processes that involve establishing movement qualities that embody intensity and poetry. Examples: of movement include passages, stillness, leaning, rotation and meditation; and of techniques, are oscillation, repetition, momentum, concentration, improvisation and the breath (to affect propulsion and physiology).
- Create durational work using intensity to embody connections that are interwoven with unfolding fields of movement in the specific vicinity.
- Create performance work that disrupts perception – the performers and the audiences – by a meditative and sensual poetry operating through non-verbal consciousness (although words are not necessarily excluded).
- Explore ideas that are concerned with dissolving the figural rather than depicting characters or subjective expressivity but remain open to incorporating coincidental narrative and absurdity.
- Develop the potential, observed in recent video documentation of practice, for new projects to comprise of performance events and film works.

Sites that we carried out practice sessions at regularly included: various vicinities within Greenwich and Vanbrugh Park, London; Avery Hill Park, including inside the Victorian Winter Garden, Eltham; Gunpowder Park, Essex; woodland spaces and landscaped grounds at Heath Mount School, Hertfordshire.

Visits to specific sites included Bedgebury National Pinetum, Beth Chatto's Garden, Yalding Organic Garden and vicinities in Ashdown Forest. Other further-a-field areas visited, which often encompassed designated AONB, included the following countryside walks: Wye Stn. to Chilham Stn. by way of the North Downs Way and Stour Valley Arts project in King's Wood, Challock, Kent; Penshurst Stn. to Leigh Stn, via Chiddingstone, Penshurst Park and the Eden Valley Walk; Otford Stn. to Eynsford Stn. via Lullingstone Park and Castle, along the Darent Valley Path; a circular walk from Bures Stn, via the Stour Valley Path, Wormingford and the Dead Lane Track; a circular walk from Manningtree, via the Stour Valley Path, St Edmund Way, Suffolk; a circular walk from Hollingbourne Stn., along the North Downs Way and Smokes Wood, Hucking, Kent; White Notley Stn to Hatfield Peveral Stn., via Fairstead and Terling, Essex. Forthcoming area visits in the South East will include: Beltring Stn. circular walk; Wateringbury Stn to East Farleigh Stn; and Wadhurst Stn to Frant Stn.

## Biographies

- Artists biographies are online at [www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](http://www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk)

## Documentation

- Extracts of performance-research in two practice sessions. Artists: Lauren Goode and Maria Llanderas. Edited by Lauren Goode. *Circles by two trees – Winter and Spring*. Greenwich Park. Issue no. 5. 2005. [dvd. total: 13 mins]
- Extracts of performance-research in a practice session. Location: a small, hexagonal and mirrored room at Heath Mount School. Artists: Charlotte Bernstein, Lauren Goode and Maria Llanderas. Edited by Lauren Goode. Issue no. 4. 2005. [dvd. total: 14 mins]
- Extracts of performance-research in practice sessions. Nov 2004 to Apr 2005. Edited by Lauren Goode. Locations: Greenwich Park, Vanbrugh Park, Avery Hill Park, Avery Hill Winter Garden, Gunpowder Park, circular lawn (Heath Mount School grounds) Issue no. 3. 2005. [dvd. total: 60 mins]
- Extracts of performance-research in practice sessions at Gunpowder Park. Jan 2005. Artists: Charlotte Bernstein, Maria Llanderas and Lauren Goode. Edited by Lauren Goode. Issue no. 2. [dvd. total: 20 mins]
- Extracts of performance-research in practice sessions. Nov-Dec 2004. Edited by Lauren Goode. Locations: Greenwich Park, Vanbrugh Park, Avery Hill Park, Avery Hill Winter Garden, circular lawn and hexagonal mirrored room (Heath Mount School); and GDA studio. Issue no. 1. 2004. [dvd. total: 60 mins]
- Documentation, in lo-res images, from the weekly live art practice sessions (2004-05) free online, [www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](http://www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk), and includes: Sheet 1, pdf file size: 92kb; Sheet 2, pdf file size: 64kb; and Sheet 3, pdf file size: 52kb.
- Landscape images: Ashdown Forest; Gunpowder Park; and Bedgebury National Pinetum.

## Related

- Live Art Garden Initiative. [www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](http://www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk)
- Gunpowder Park. [www.gunpowderpark.org](http://www.gunpowderpark.org)
- An education resource prepared (by Maria Llanderas and Lauren Goode) for teachers, which aims to facilitate with the introduction of ideas about live art and site-specific performance; and the exploration of practical work in a park location. This resource is free online at [www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](http://www.liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk) and includes 'Descriptions and terms Lauren uses in relation to the performative works'.

## Contact

- All associate artists. email: [artists@liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](mailto:artists@liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk)
- Live Art Garden Initiative director. email: [lauren@liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk](mailto:lauren@liveartgardeninitiative.org.uk)

