

Learning Resource for Sunderland Exhibitions



AV Festival forms part of North East England's world-class festivals and events programme



The exhibition(s) that you are going to see and experience are part of the AV Festival 2008. AV means audio visual, audio can be heard, visual can be seen. AV Festival is an international festival of electronic arts featuring visual art, music and moving image. A biennial event, (this means that it happens every two years) the festival takes place in Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and Middlesbrough in the North East of England between 28th February and 8th March 2008 and has the theme of Broadcast.

We have just entered the second century of broadcasting and are in a time of great change. The change to digital will create endless possibilities for communities and people to be part of broadcasting and it is already an area that artists are exploring in their work.

The internet has become another area for broadcasting and sharing sound, film, video and photography, through the many online sites. This is moving at a very fast pace. We now receive broadcasts on the move, podcasts, tv and radio on our phones, PDA's and hand held computers. For AV Festival 08, artists, filmmakers and musicians have created works which illuminate all aspects of broadcasting. You will become part of this as the audience for the work. Enjoy AV Festival 2008!

Reg Vardy Gallery

The Reg Vardy Gallery supports exhibitions, projects and events that explore **contemporary art practice** with a focus on research, experimentation and collaboration.

What is an art gallery ?

An art gallery is a space , it is where art is placed , this is so that people can experience it. They can experience it in many different ways. They might have to **look** at it, or **hear** it , or **touch** it. An art gallery can be in a building, or it can be outside, it can also be in a space that moves (it could be in a purpose built bus), it can be a virtual gallery on the internet. Some art galleries have a collection of art which belongs to them. They also lend it to other galleries. Some art galleries do not have a collection, artists come and use their space so that the exhibitions change all the time. Most contemporary art galleries change their exhibitions throughout the year.

You are visiting the Reg Vardy Gallery

The **Reg Vardy Gallery** presents changing exhibitions of new work by artists from around the world, it brings new art to new audiences. When **you** visit the gallery, **you** become the audience. It gives you the chance to see art of today in a contemporary setting.

Contemporary art means that the art belongs to the **present day**. It is very important that you have an **open mind** when you see contemporary art . This means that it is important that you are prepared for new experiences and new knowledge. Art is not always pretty to look at or to experience. Art is not always easy to understand, but it can be interesting. Working out what makes it **interesting** to **you** is the key to understanding contemporary art.

The name of the exhibition you are going to see is “Aeriology”

The artist is **Joyce Hinterding**

This is a **contemporary art exhibition** and is called
an **installation**

Contemporary art means that the art belongs to the present
day. A **contemporary artist** is an artist who is alive today and
who makes works of art to be exhibited in galleries and public
spaces at the moment.

In **installation art**, the artist creates a single piece of work in a
given or chosen space. They have to think about where the art
is placed, how you will see it, hear it and experience it. It is a
very special kind of art making. Sometimes the audience have
to participate in the work. Sometimes they can just sit and
experience the art.

This art work and installation is part of the AV Festival 2008.
Audio Visual refers to things which have a sound part to
them and a visual part to them.

Who is Joyce Hinterding?



Joyce is known as a “cross media” artist.

This means she uses a range of media for her art work. Joyce lives and works in the Blue Mountains in Australia but exhibits her art work around the world. Her work is AUDIO VISUAL. Joyce enjoys working with sound, she feels that sound is movement. Her work is very experimental and unusual. Joyce also works with other artists (this is called collaborative art) on projects which involve broadcasting through antennae. Joyce also creates installation work with her partner David Haines.

You can see and hear Joyce talk about her work at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZIs3R3pMwk>

The name of the exhibition you are going to see is “Aeriology”

Aerial means “of air, gaseous, existing in air waves, transmitting or receiving radio waves”.

Joyce says that we all live in a world which is an “absolute sea of energy.” A lot of that energy is invisible. But, we can’t function without it.

Sometimes we forget that electricity is a natural phenomena that we have learnt to capture and to use.

In our every day life we hide electricity, we wrap it up in wires and in boxes because it can be a danger to us when the voltage is high.

We use it all the time but we don’t usually see it. Here, the artist is making the invisible visible to us.

Joyce is drawing our attention to what is always there, She is investigating the invisible. She is inviting us to listen to the invisible.

“Aeriology”

What do you see in the gallery ? You see a line of wire. As an artist might draw with a line to create meaning, Joyce is also using a line here to create meaning. The line of wire is closely wrapped so it may seem to be one shape and not a thin line. Look closely and you will see what it is. Lines and lines and lines of wire.

The wire is made from copper. There are 20 kilometres of copper wire in here. That is over 12 miles of copper wire. Stretched out, it would almost reach Newcastle from here in Sunderland.

The thin wire is wrapped around the shape of the building inside, this in itself is like a sculpture made from wire. It makes the shape and the form of the building stand out.

But, the wire is there for another purpose. The wire is there to record electrical activities, it is collecting these and then turning them into static noises. Remember that the noise makes the invisible become visible.

You can listen to this through the headphones. They magnify the sound, make it bigger and closer to you.

“Aeriology”

What do you hear in the gallery?

Well, the artist has made the gallery into a giant antenna. An antenna is designed to transmit or receive electromagnetic waves. It converts them into electrical currents. Antennas are used in radio and television, point to point radio communication, radar, space exploration and wireless LAN. They can work in space, they can even work through soil and rock at certain frequencies for short distances.

When we switch on an analogue radio, we can use the antenna to try and find the station that we want. When we do this by moving the tuner control, we hear static noises as we move between the channels. The antenna is collecting all of the energy that is flowing through the atmosphere. The art that is produced is about sound. We can now hear what we normally can not hear.

In her work, Joyce sometimes manipulates the sound, she lets go of the origin of the sounds. But, in this installation, the sound is made from what is around this gallery space and you hear it as it is transmitted through the copper wire. It is live sound. It is real time sound. In the media of film, radio and television, real time is

“Aeriology”

So, this gallery space now becomes an energy gatherer. (The artist calls herself an “energy scavenger”) It becomes a wall of copper. The signals and the waves that the installation picks up is fed into an audio system so that they can be picked up by the human ear.

An oscilloscope monitors the output of the antenna and a surveillance camera tracks the movement and human interference in this electromagnetic environment. An oscilloscope allows signals to be viewed as a kind of a graph. The work of the oscilloscope and the camera can be seen as part of this installation.

Joyce has used electro magnetic waves as a material for art. She is making us see that this energetic exchange with the upper atmosphere is constant and very active. The energy is everywhere. They are natural electrical activities.

The art gallery is a record of that.

Group activity: Pair work

Choose a partner.

Do the following activities in a pair, you will need to swop roles when the activities have been done once. Be patient and give your partner **TIME** to come up with their responses.

Ask your partner to sit within the installation at a point that you decide on.

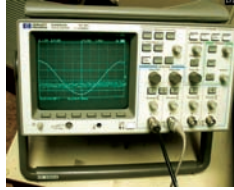
Ask them to look around from where they are sitting. Give them time to do this.

Ask for **TEN** key words to describe what they **SEE**. Write them here. This is **VISUAL** Ask them to close their eyes and **LISTEN** for some time. Now ask for **TEN** key words which describe what they **HEAR**. Write them here. This is **AUDIO**

My partner is

Individual Activity

An oscilloscope allows signals to be viewed as a kind of a graph. Use these boxes to sketch your vision (like an oscilloscope) of what you are actually listening to.

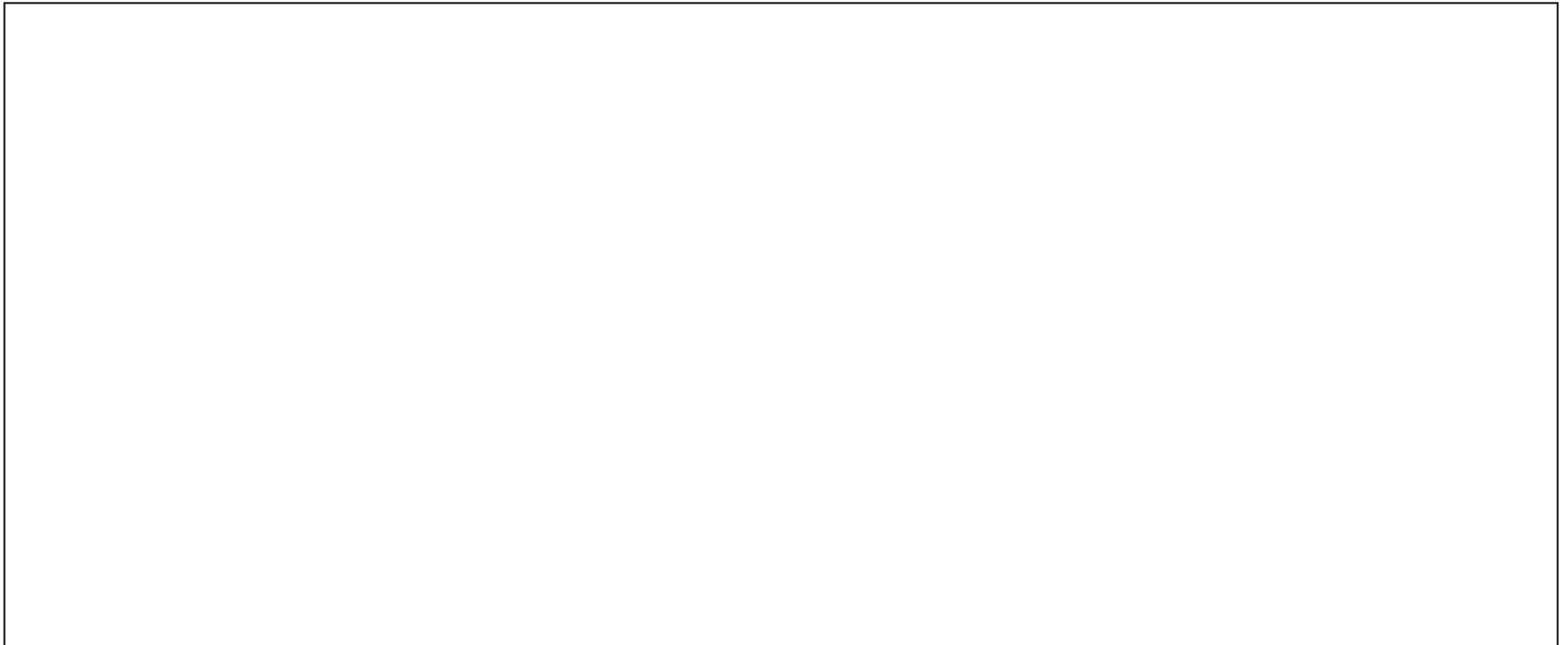


Name

Individual Activity

Your drawings which you did on the previous activity will probably show shapes and lines. Use this space below to develop one of these further, this time **use colours that you feel represent the feelings that you have when you listen to the sound installation.** You can use a few colours or a variety of colours. You could use shades of one colour. Remember, this is not meant to be a picture which represents anything, it is a visual way of showing how **you** respond to the sounds. This is an abstract drawing/image.

Name

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw an abstract representation of their feelings in response to a sound installation. The box occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

Individual Activity

Name



Use coloured lines and draw, around these figures, the lines that you think would represent the electrical currents that they are giving out in the “absolute sea of energy” that Joyce says we live in. Use different colours for the different figures. Use your thoughts and experiences of this installation to inspire what you do. Some artists paint with what is called “synesthesia”, this means that they have a sensation of colour when they see and experience certain sounds and noises. Artists like Kandinsky, and Mondrian are good examples of this. Create your own image in this way. Take your time with this activity.



Group Presentation

Group activity: Groups of 4

My group is

1. Work in groups of four. Your teacher will tell you how long you have to prepare.

2. Spend some time discussing the installation and what you have found out about the artist

3. Plan a short (5 minutes ?) presentation which involves all the group. Involve everyone in this, be considerate to those who may be less confident when presenting.

4. Explain why the group liked the (or disliked) the art work. Express your opinions and points of view. Invite your "audience" to ask questions.

5. Listen very carefully to other group presentations because you will expect them to listen to yours. Support each other at all times. Show your appreciation of each group's presentation. Say "well done" and "thank you".

AV Festival 08 Broadcast



Reg Vardy Gallery



north east
england

