

Report on 'insites: an artists book'

Insites is a critical reflection on geographical ways of knowing emerging from a collaboration between myself and artist, Annie Lovejoy. Lovejoy is a visual artist with over 30 years experience in developing community projects and artists multiples, including artists' books. She is currently doing a PhD jointly supervised by School of Geography, University of Exeter in Cornwall and University Collage Falmouth

Our discussion came together around our shared experience of a piece of community artwork: *Caravanserai* that Lovejoy was coordinating on the Roseland Peninsula in Cornwall. As a geographer I was interested in what sort of ideas of 'local' and community that were being activated by the work and Lovejoy was interested in critiquing existing narratives of community and site specific based art practices which often have a very ephemeral engagement with place. At the same time as these discussions were carried out the 'Art and Geographical Knowledge' conference sessions for the Royal Geographical Society Annual conference were developing. Annie was giving a paper in these sessions on her work. During discussions about the conference and its theme, Geography Knowledge and Society, we reflected on our own different forms of geographical knowledge. We decided as a result of these reflections to produce the artists book *insites* that would form:

- 1) A critical comment on 'ways of knowing' place.
- 2) A practical exercise in the use of creative cultural practices- in this case art practice for reflecting on geographical knowledges.
- 3) A reflection on interdisciplinary collaborations.

We printed 1500 copies of the book. They have so far been distributed to following audiences within and beyond academia:

- 1100 were handed out to delegates at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference in Manchester
- 25 copies have gone to be a part of the Geography PGCE courses at University of Newcastle and Northumbria
- 25 copies have been given teachers of drama and geography in local secondary schools
- 30 copies have been handed out to community and environmentally based artist practitioners associated with the BOS Arts network (Cornwall)
- 100 copies will go to delegates of the 'Creativity and Place' conference to be held at School of Geography, University of Exeter June 2010.
- The remainder are being distributed amongst the community who are involved in *Caravanserai*.

Further outputs:

Insites has been the subject of three paper presentations:

Lovejoy, A. and Brace, C. 2009, *Caravanserai: Field work project*, Royal Geographical Society.

Lovejoy, A. *Caravanserai, Artists talk*, BOS Arts event, September 2009, Cornwall.

Hawkins, H. 2009, *Geography and Art: interdisciplinary engagement*, to PVA: Media artists presentations.

We are in the process of writing a paper to be submitted to a special issue of 'Performance Studies' on Field Work.

The total cost of printing the book and transporting the copies to Manchester was £1635.50.

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