

Section 1: Research Digest

Visual & Applied Arts

North Yorkshire Artists and Makers Survey [UK]

Ian Gasse / Chrysalis Arts
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30 pages; free

Objectives

This survey was commissioned by Yorkshire Arts in order to try and identify the number of artists and makers/craftspeople working in North Yorkshire; and to obtain a more accurate picture of the range and scale of their activities and their contribution to the county's cultural economy. A further aim was to identify areas of training and development which artists, makers and craftspeople in the county may be interested in undertaking, so as to inform future training provision.

Methodology

A short postal questionnaire was distributed to over 550 artists, makers and craftspeople seeking information on their artistic and economic activity, turnover, qualifications, other professional or work experience, length of career, and information and training needs. A four-page A4 questionnaire was used with a selection of 23 respondents, out of the 70 or more who had indicated they were willing to be surveyed by telephone.

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Summary

Of the responses received, 84 out of the 128 were from female practitioners and 44 from male practitioners. From the telephone survey, information was sought about ethnic origin or descent and the ability or disability of practitioners. Ethnic origin proved

overwhelmingly to be white UK, and only two respondents out of 23 identified themselves as disabled, with one as partially disabled. Three local authority districts - Craven, Harrogate and Scarborough - out of eight districts in all - accounted for almost 65% of the total number of artists, makers and craftspeople to whom questionnaires were sent.

Over 67% of respondents saw themselves as "professional" and over 88% were working or attempting to work as artist, maker or craftspeople in order to make a living. Over 61% regarded themselves either wholly or partly as "artists" and nearly 29% regarded themselves wholly or partly as "craftspeople" or "makers". The commonest areas of activity were in more traditional areas of work, such as painting/ drawing (32 practitioners), ceramics (19), sculpture (12) and textiles (12). About 67% stated they did other work or received other income to supplement their arts/crafts income. The commonest work undertaken was teaching in the arts/crafts.

Over 56% reported their turnover for the last full year of activity had been less than £10,000. A further 23% reported a turnover of between £10,000 and £20,000 for the year. In total, almost 60% of respondents were educated and qualified to degree level or above in their area of practice. Nearly 60% had a qualification and/or experience in at least one other area of work activity. The questionnaire asked how long artists, makers and craftspeople had been practising professionally. Thirty-seven per cent had set up since 1990; 33% had set up during the 1980s, and 30% before 1980.

Nearly 50% had received no financial support or assistance from local authorities, trust and foundations, the arts funding system, the National Lottery or any other source; and nearly 40% said access to information had been an obstacle in the development of their work or practice. Eighty-three percent of respondents indicated they were interested in training to support their development or activity, and in areas such as arts practice, business development/ management, information technology, marketing, and professional development.

Commissioned by
Yorkshire Arts

Availability

Available from Yorkshire Arts, 21 Bond Street, Dewsbury WF13 1AX; tel: +44 (0) 1924 455555; fax: +44 (0) 1924 4; e-mail: chloe.smith@yarts.co.uk and from Chrysalis Arts, The Art Depot, Asquith Industrial Estate, Eshton Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire BD23 3SE; tel: +44 (0) 1756 749222; fax: +44 (0) 1756 779934; e-mail: chrysalis@artdepot.co.uk