

Kingsgate Workshops Trust 2006 Annual Report

Introduction

2006 was packed with activities, challenges and developments. We are the proud owners of a wonderful new education building, which enables us to provide on-site classes, shows and talks. We replaced our main gates, so the site is now fully accessible to people with physical disabilities. One of the highlights came early in the year when we organised a very successful charity auction. Not only was this important in helping to equip the new building, it also provided an opportunity for licensees, trustees, staff and volunteers to work together in a worthwhile and rewarding cause. Particular thanks are due to Anastasia Lewis for suggesting the auction and securing the services of Jim Carter, our excellent auctioneer.

This year we continued to develop our programme for the benefit of the public, especially people in the local area, with an attractive mix of opportunities to participate in high-quality arts and crafts activities. Our open studios event was another highlight, including many hands-on workshops for adults and children. In a separate initiative, we recognised how difficult it can be for newly graduated artists to become established, and have developed an 'emerging artists' programme in response to this need.

Most of our challenges this year have been financial ones. Although we are sure that the purchase of the leasehold was the correct decision, it has meant that we are solely responsible for securing the fabric of our ageing building. We took the difficult decision to implement a rent increase in order to balance the books and this has inevitably caused problems for some of our licensees. We also need to make stronger connections between what we can offer and the interests of the people in our area. Our new development plan should help us to this end.

This year we said goodbye to four trustees, including our Chair, Jeanne Cottave. We are grateful to them all for their contributions to KWT, but particularly to Jeanne, who steered the board through the first years of our establishment as a charitable trust. I must also pay tribute to our excellent staff and student volunteers. Bridget, Jess and Pamela in particular have provided excellent direction and support to trustees, licensees and members of the public alike.

Caroline Sharp
Chair

The charitable aim of Kingsgate Workshops Trust is to deliver arts and crafts services to the local community and residents of the boroughs of Camden and Brent (although we also, where appropriate, offer more specialist services to groups across London). To this end, the Trust fundraised for and commissioned a bespoke Education Block which now occupies its own discrete site adjacent to the KWT main building. Designed by the award-winning architects Adams and Sutherland, the Education Block is a unique resource in this part of North London- offering participants the opportunity to engage in cultural activities in a beautiful purpose built arts and craft facility supported by an expert artist tutor team drawn from KWT's own licensee group and beyond.

Thanks to funding from Disability in Camden (DisC), Kingsgate were able to commission and install fully accessible gates that replaced the old yard gates in the summer of 2006. Once these gates were in place the new building was quickly signed off and the centre is already proving to be an invaluable resource for the organisation. Serving as a venue for screenings, talks, workshops and meetings the Education Room is a great space to work in and has been enthused about by tutors, participants and visitors alike.

Kingsgate Workshops Trust has had some success in identifying funders to support the ongoing education delivery and would like to acknowledge Camden Council, Save the Children, the ITV Fund and Awards for All for their generous support which will see our free of charge workshops run for participants throughout 2007. Classes taking place in the Education building during 2006 included weekly classes in Japanese and Chinese Calligraphy, Life Drawing, Printmaking and Street Art as well as many one-off sessions in arts and crafts techniques.

Kingsgate Workshops Trusts own efforts to raise funds were further helped this year with the Kingsgate Auction held in the Education Room in April 2006. Selling nearly twenty thousand pounds of work, the charity generated over six and a half thousand pounds of clear profit to invest in education equipment and materials to resource the new centre. This was a remarkable achievement for the small staff team and volunteer committee and the evening was much enjoyed by all who attended. Our particular thanks go to Mr Jim Carter who distinguished himself as our auctioneer - wooing such generous contributions from our 80 guests and to the many Kingsgate Licensees who entered their work into the sale. The Auction committee has gone on to purchase full blackout blinds and a data projector for the centre, ensuring that the suite can host professional standard screening events. Auction funds have also been used to resource a number of our free workshops with specialist equipment and secure insurance to cover these purchases.

Kingsgate Workshops has, during its long history, embraced a wide range of educational outreach approaches, ranging from long-term community arts projects to evening classes, outdoor events and festivals, one-to-one tutoring, school and community residencies, exhibitions, specialist talks and presentations. However, our core work runs deeper than this and is underpinned by our desire to stimulate and support local cultural development,

work in partnerships with neighbourhood groups, schools and organisations and encourage participation in the cultural life of the West Hampstead and Kilburn areas. To this end, Kingsgate enthusiastically took part in the Queen's Park Day during the summer. Scheduled in early September this was a lovely event favoured with wonderful weather during which over 200 children and adults took part in the Kingsgate celebration flag workshop. This success was built upon further during the December Kingsgate Open Studios event, which was well attended by over 650 visitors over the weekend. Although sales were somewhat slower than normal, the office was delighted to receive letters and emails from several visitors who wrote that it was one of the best events of its kind that they had ever attended. The popularity of the all day workshops, activities and arts trail around the building were apparent- and congratulations should be recorded to all the Licensees who volunteered above and beyond the call of duty to make the weekend such a success. We hope to build on this success with KWT's forthcoming participation in Arts Unwrapped- Europe's largest Open Studio event- in May 2007.

In addition to our existing education work, KWT has expressed its increased commitment to offer excellent arts based programmes to local individuals and community groups who have previously had limited cultural opportunity. We will particular focus our work for children and young people, older residents and vulnerable adult groups- particularly refugees. Our three-year Business Plan due to be completed in early 2007 will outline a strategy for delivering this work in addition to planning work to support and develop the resources of the Trust through the timely maintenance and repair of the Trust's main building on Kingsgate Road.

We were pleased to welcome seven new arrivals to the studios during 2006: photographer Camilla Watson, sculptor Marie Therese Ross, fine artist Simon Periton and film maker Kaz Takabatake all took up permanent licenses and they were joined by our three Emerging Artists: textile designer Jo Dawn, ceramist Olivia Horley and photographer Anthony Luvera. The Emerging Artist scheme was launched in the autumn of 2006 and is aimed at artists and craftspeople in the first five years of their professional practice. They will enjoy an eighteen-month residency in a specially adapted ground floor studio at Kingsgate. We were delighted with the number and breadth of responses we received from emerging artist candidates and are certain that the scheme will prove to be popular both with funders and potential new applicants. We were sad to say goodbye to licensees Carol Wyss, Debbie Humphrey, Rosie Pedlow and Joe King, Vince Donovan, Adam Kops and Gill Calvert this year- we thank them all for their hard work and commitment to KWT and wish them great success in their new ventures.

Kingsgate Workshops Trust is committed to developing participation in the arts and crafts in West Hampstead, Camden and pan-London. Our aim is to engage with artists and craftspeople to steer creative approaches, which give expression to the unique voices of the individual, the group or community with which we are engaged. We are delighted to have begun to work in more regular partnership with Kilburn Youth Centre attendees who have been working with Kingsgate tutors on a series of arts based activities. This partnership will continue throughout 2007 and we hope to develop even stronger relationships with other local partners and residents.

KWT is unashamedly geographically focused on work in North London but we do work across London and offer opportunities to people beyond our immediate locale in a variety of ways including:

- Gallery shows, workshops and residencies toured to the KWT gallery and Education Block from across London and the UK.
- Projects, exhibitions, workshops and performances taking place with partners in other parts of London and the UK
- We offer opportunities for placements for artists, interns and students on exchange or work programmes- with a historical partnership that has seen us host at least two international internships each year

To meet these aims, the Gallery subcommittee, comprised of licensees working in tandem with the Director, continued to select a diverse and engaging portfolio of shows during 2006. The year's programme consisted of the following exhibitions and events:

GALLERY SHOWS:

Camberwell School of Printing BA Show *Proof*
Byam Shaw BA Show *small*
Hampstead School A' level show
Charlotte Grum *Reconstructing de-mo-cra-cy*
Edward Kelly *playtime!*
Marek Szostaczko *The Light Man*
Angela Allen *Sequences and Interruptions*
Group Show *Comment 1*

no:where Light readings continued monthly throughout the year.

Whilst audiences have continued to respond enthusiastically to Kingsgate's shows, the Gallery and Education subcommittee (an amalgamated panel of Trustees and Licensees) continued to explore new strategies to both grow the audience numbers and integrate the work of the gallery and education spaces. The committee has proposed a new Curators Programme to launch in 2007: targeted at emerging programmers and curators. This development will build on the education work that Kingsgate successfully undertook or hosted during 2006.

STAFFING

Pamela Furness resigned as Operations Manager during 2006 but has continued to work as Kingsgate's Finance Manager working for the organisation on a freelance basis several days each month. Jessica Killick joined the organisation as Pamela's replacement and has done sterling work to support Licensees, Trustees and the Director in the new work undertaken by the organisation.

Kingsgate was also delighted to host two international interns during the 2006 period. Emily Hietpas was with the organisation during the early months of 2006 and was an

invaluable support to the Auction committee. Similarly Amanda Klauck was based at KWT from September to December of this year and her help in the office and in the preparation of the Open Studios cannot be overstated. Our deepest thanks and best wishes are sent to both of them as they complete their studies back in the US.

Director of Development and Education Bridget Eadie has continued to work 3.5 days a week at KWT: overseeing the fundraising and development work of the organisation with enthusiasm and commitment. In this she has been ably supported by the Licensee Management Committee, chaired by Tom Wilkinson and the Board of Trustees chaired by Caroline Sharp. The organisation also records its deep gratitude to former Chair Jeanne Cottave and Trustees Colin Marr, Julia Manheim and Karen Mirza who stepped down this year. The organisation is all the richer for their great commitment in previous years.

FINANCE

The charity ended 2006 in a good financial position, with incoming resources exceeding outgoing resources.