

## **Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information**

### **AbeySmallcombe**

Artists and designers  
Drewsteignton

AbeySmallcombe is the collaboration of Jackie Abey and Jill Smallcombe who work with cob; a traditional building material used in the South West and comprising a mixture of sub-soil, straw and water. They have created sculptures and buildings for The Eden Project, The National Trust, Sustrans, The Genesis Project and exhibited in galleries around the UK.



Cob is one of the most sustainable materials known to man. It is totally recyclable, can be sourced locally, and has a low impact on the environment and a life of many hundreds of years. Jackie and Jill have always had a strong sustainable work ethic and use materials from site whenever possible.

This helps to keep down both economic and environmental costs, such as transportation. Cob is the vernacular in Devon and Jackie and Jill are keen to promote it as a fantastic sustainable building material for the future.

Through their 3 Little Pigs schools project, Jackie and Jill have created outdoor classrooms for Hennock, Alphington and Lanscore Primary Schools using cob and other sustainable and recycled materials. During the building process they run hands-on workshops, where every child in the school participates.

As Artists in Residence at Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter, they will have a unique opportunity to spend time exploring and documenting their collection whilst it is in store. The cob reference book on display here is part of a series of work, interpreting the museum's natural history collections and how they are displayed. The transparent plates show a selection of natural fibres they use with earth to produce a finer cob for delicate work.

They have received funding from: Tarka Country Millennium Awards (2002), Arts Council England (2003 & 2004) and The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment (2005).

*Art, Ecology and the Economy* was shown at CCANW's Project Space in Haldon Forest Park and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown, in two simultaneous parts in Winter 2010. It was supported by Arts Council England, Devon County Council and Greater Dartmoor LEAF, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

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