

CCANW

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information

Alex Murdin

Ashburton

Artist and curator

Alex Murdin is an artist and curator of public art works, developing projects which are inspired by a particular place/context. Conceptual in approach, they take the form of structures or interventions designed to engage people with specific rural issues. Sometimes the concepts are realised as objects, sometimes they only exist as discussions in the media or public sphere.



Alex works with government, local authorities, commercial developers, community groups and other agencies all over the UK. Collaboration is a key factor as most projects need the input of many other professionals, planners, architects, scientists, engineers and other artists, craftspeople and designers. Engagement of the particular communities of place and/or interest is essential.

Generally Alex adopts a DIY, replicable approach to take work forward, emphasising the everyday over the monuments of past art traditions. This is both from environmental principles and the current economic climate. With many of the large regeneration projects that usually fund public art cancelled, or on hold, new attitudes are needed that value low-cost temporary projects that enable grassroots community creativity as much as the large scale, 'permanent' works generally supposed to have more of a 'legacy'.

At the core of this work is how art can, could or even should aid environmental agendas. Some of these projects have started to map out how these agendas can (or cannot) integrate with major social trends such as increasing leisure time, tourism and the resulting demand for access to land and waterscapes, often protected for their ecological value. However, 'solutions' are not sought. The value of these works lies in testing boundaries, furthering discussion and in creating different perspectives of how we might live in the country and city.

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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Photograph: Chris Lewis