

CCANW

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information

Amanda Pellatt

Artist
Ivybridge

“My intention is to find new ways for people to re-engage with their local environment and re-discover a sense of place; the arts act as a catalyst, which I believe necessary for future social, economic and environmental change”.



The River Erme Valley project grew out of her research during a MA in Art and Ecology at Dartington in 2007. It started within Ivybridge, her home town, which has grown from a village to a population of 15,000 and has a strong feeling of dis-engagement with community issues. It also came from a personal wish to re-engage with people, so Amanda joined many diverse clubs and became an expert on

the social networks within her community.

Amanda organised and led walks to “re-map the River Erme” which flows through the town. She invited representatives of clubs to walk the river as a collaborative exchange to map it in a multi-sensory way in order and find new ways of knowing it. Each participant brought their own expertise of how they see environment, and the dialogue was a “social sculpture” which has rippled outwards.

The project has now taken a life of its own over two years. Amanda continues to facilitate community activism from Ivybridge and her studio base at Duchy Square, Princetown.

Amanda believes that this project caught the imagination as it worked from the grassroots up and the language was accessible. Developing the initiative wider is underway, to include all rivers in Devon. Amanda also hopes that having a ‘Civil Artist’ in all communities could stimulate discussion of a future role of arts in Community.

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.

For more information contact CCANW, Haldon Forest Park, Exeter EX6 7XR
T 01392 832277 E info@ccanw.co.uk W ccanw.co.uk

Photograph: Chris Lewis