



June 2019

PRESS RELEASE – NEW PROJECTS 2019

‘Land Mark: working the land; marking the land’ - June 2019 to September 2020

Portobello Pottery Kilns, Portobello Beach & Telferton Allotments

Art Walk Projects is delighted to announce a new project of research-based artist residencies, commissions and community engagement work involving 8 invited artists centred around Portobello, Edinburgh’s seaside, to take place over two years, being funded by Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council.

‘Land Mark’ presents a contemporary discourse around the relationship of land to community, in the context of the changing landscape that is Western Portobello; of a land marked by its industrial heritage, an area that is currently undergoing major redevelopment and renewal. Artists will develop a range of works in and around the areas of Portobello’s pottery kilns, Portobello beach, and Telferton allotments.

Residency programme

‘Material Land’:

Jenny Pope, June to September 2019

Visual artist, Jenny Pope, will develop an installation for inside one of the two remaining pottery kilns, the last two remaining from across the whole of Scotland’s pottery industry, opening up the site to public access. As part of her residency she will research the experience of kiln workers, their working conditions, and the elemental process of firing, air drafts and clay. Her fascination with the production of Prussian Blue pigment in the area will also be explored, along with the ‘noxious’ processes that took place in the 1800s, relating this to current concerns for a clean environment. Alongside her installation in the kiln, she will run some workshops at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, and also create an event on Portobello Beach that celebrates the working kilns, building collected brick stacks for firing culminating with the end of the 2019 Art Walk Party Festival.

‘Working Land’:

Bristow+Wilson, August 2019 to September 2020

Collaborative artists, Felicity Bristow and Susie Wilson, will be working tending a plot of land at Telferton Allotments over the duration of a year, documenting the growing cycle from the cultivating of land, working the soil, to the growing of seedlings, resulting in a number of community events around seed collecting, sharing, and eating-together events, along with an artist book being produced in 2020 that illustrates and records their observations and findings.

The allotments at Telferton represent a key area of contested land that has enormous value as a social space. They were originally set up to provide plots for local Portobello Power Station workers and the unemployed, with them being used now by many ploholders who live in Portobello. The community have regularly fought off threats to what has become contested land since 1998, enabling it to remain a valuable area for growing.

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'Worked Land'

Nicky Bird, October 2019 to February 2020

Nicky Bird will work with her investigative approach of 'found' artefacts, and specific sites, to trace the lives of kiln workers. This will involve collaborative art processes with people who have a significant connection to a hidden history using photography, oral reminiscence and exploration of non-invasive archaeological methods. It will result in a series of semi/permanent photographic based imagery shown in outdoor local public sites around Portobello's kilns, and the old claypits (Rosefield Park, Figgate Burn Park) and Adelphi Place (which housed the pottery workers).

'Walked Land'

Deirdre Macleod, June to September 2020

Reflecting upon the changing physicality of the site around the kilns, Deirdre Macleod, will explore in her residency how we currently experience, or *might* experience, the contemporary built environment around Western Portobello which forms a new set of landmarks and landforms within the town. How do we engage physically with these sites, and in so doing, see and feel them differently. Following human geographer Doreen Massey, she starts from the premise that space does not simply exist, a priori, but is continually produced by human forces, experiences and forces.

Any press enquiries please contact:

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Art Walk Party Festival runs from 7 to 15 September 2019

The full festival programme will be announced in mid July.

www.artwalkparty.co.uk