



Representing The Change: Rules of Engagement

Lead by Anna Francis, Rebecca Davies and Dan Russell.





Anna Francis, *Brownfield Ikebana*, 2012

Director at AirSpace Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent and Associate Professor of Fine Art and Social Practice at Staffordshire University, collaborator with Rebecca Davies on The Portland Inn Project



## Interested in Housing Renewal in Cities



Indefinable City Installation View, AirSpace Gallery - February, 2007.





A lot of my work is located in the city where I live, but always in relation to other places:  
City Tour Guide - 2009-10 – responding to a gap – a City with no tour guide





The Tour Guide focused on areas of change and upheaval, visiting site of demolition, clearance, development and contested sites, where people were fighting development



# How To Make a Brownfield Ikebana Works Instruction:

Please read to ensure you understand your responsibilities when using the Artist's Kit:

SHEET NUMBER: 1

## What you need to know:

### 1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

**1.1** This works instruction (WI) covers the selection of site and flowers, and the use of equipment when making a Brownfield Ikebana.

**1.2** The purpose of this WI is to ensure that the processes described are carried out as efficiently and effectively as possible, while bearing in mind certain health and safety guidance measures. Anna Francis takes no responsibility for any erroneous use.

### 2. SELECTION AND ASSEMBLY:



**2.1** Assemble your equipment for creating a Brownfield Ikebana. You will need; secateurs, a selection of kenzan, gloves to protect against thorns and a tray containing wet newspaper.



**2.2** Select your site carefully; a site which has been between demolition and development for over 12 months is best, as this allows for maximum errant growth.



**2.3** Walk the site thoroughly to get a good idea of the diversity of plants which have appeared.



**2.4** Seek out the vessels which will make beautiful or surprising combinations for your Ikebana.



**2.5** You may wish to partner your vessel with a support salvaged from the site: this could be fabric or other chunkier materials.



**2.6** Select your flowers carefully, considering what will work in the space that they are intended for, but also considering Shin, Soe and Hikae see 2.9.



**2.7** As soon as you have cut your plants, wrap them in the wet newspaper to ensure they remain fresh.



**2.8** Take your vessel, and select a kenzan which will be heavy enough to support your plants, while also fitting into the vase well.



**2.9** This Ikebana variation comprises Shin (Heaven) Soe (Man) and Hikae (Earth). Shin = width + height of vessel + 100%. Soe should be 75% of Shin, and Hikae should be 50%.



**2.10** Imagine a line coming from 12 o'clock from the kenzan: Shin should be placed into the Kenzan at between 0 and 5 degrees from that line, Soe at between 15 and 45 degrees and hikae at between 50 and 75.



**2.11** The arrangement can be assembled outside the vessel and then added, or alternatively built into the vessel. Remember that when building, you are the sun, and therefore the flowers should grow towards you.



**2.12** Any additions to the main lines are called Jushi or supplementaries, and should not outflank the stem they support. Set the Brownfield Ikebana on the support.



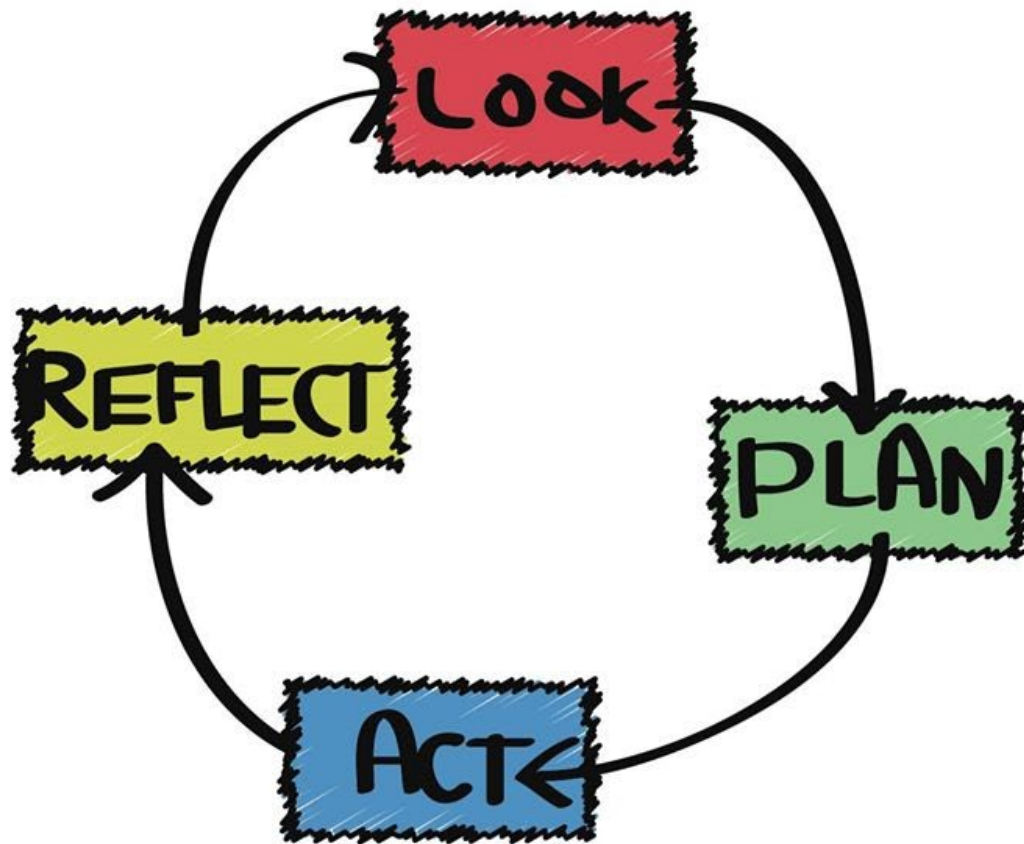
2012, 2015 and 2018  
Brownfield Ikebana





Brownfield Ikebana created by workshop participants.





**ACTION RESEARCH PROCESS**





# The Spode Rose Garden









2013 - Mark out the triangle













This section of the garden is based around the blue pattern theme of the pottery which the Spode factory produced. This section has been chosen as the blue theme is already here, and the additional furniture will be of an oriental style to enhance the setting of the blue pattern.



Boxus sempervirens - Japanese style box shrub



Prunus bribe - Japanese style plant, good for pollination and attracting bees



Garden Benches - placed along the back section of the garden



The Spode China Rose will be retained in the garden

Artisan's Sculpture From Airspace Gallery



Water Feature - creates background noise as requested



Evergreen conifer - provides colour for the space all year round



Rose Bed - restores the garden's original purpose as a rose garden, gives colour to the garden, and attracts wildlife

Pink bench with seating for communal sitting - painted to reflect the pottery made at the Spode factory

Edible Plants growing bed - provides food and opportunity for gardeners to grow crops

Informative signs are placed adjacent to the wall - these signs will inform visitors of the history of Spode, the history of the rose garden, and the aims of the garden restoration project



Oriental Wooden Garden Bridge - provides access to seating and an interest point for visitors to cross



24



## Regular gardening events







Regular community events:  
The Sunflower Party to celebrate the  
longest day of the year



Sun up to sun down raku firing





RHS Tatton Blooming Border 2017:  
Spreading the word about the work and  
the methods outside of the city







Give me your hand project, Beyond Bricks, commissioned by Multistory, 2008.

Commissioned to carry out a collaborative participatory project in Lozells and East Handsworth, 2008 – during a time of housing renewal – taught me a lot but I felt frustrated....





The role of the artist in society:

Artist as Citizen – What if I don't go home at the end of the day? What if I work where I live?





\* MADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE \*

COMMUNITY  
MAKER

\* ENGLAND \*



Starting with basic resources - Community Maker 2015: A series of workshops in a tent, where we meet, eat and make





A chance to use the green space and meet the neighbours







Making connections locally, but also bridging gaps between community and service providers



Understanding the needs:  
We need a space!







Opportunity to Collaborate with artist Rebecca Davies, whose project The Oasis Social Club had been taking place in the area in Summer 2015.



FOUR WEEKS  
OF ACTIVITY  
IN THE OLD  
PUB. SUITABLE  
FOR FAMILIES

OPEN  
DAILY  
AUGUST 8-  
SEPTEMBER  
3RD  
FREE

THE  
PORTLAND  
~INN~  
PROJECT

IS DELIVERED BY...

MADE IN STAFFORDSHIRE  
COMMUNITY  
MAKER  
ENGLAND BY

the OASIS  
SOCIAL CLUB

airspacegallery

community  
matters  
Connecting Communities

appetite

British  
Ceramics  
Biennial

GET  
INVOLVED

THE  
PORTLAND  
INN  
PROJECT

PORTLAND ST.  
STOKE ON TRENT  
ST1 5HZ

THE  
PORTLAND  
~INN~  
PROJECT

WHAT IS IT?

THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT IS A  
CREATIVE ARTS PROJECT FOR A  
COMMUNITY IN STOKE-ON-TRENT.  
THE COUNCIL HAVE OFFERED THIS DISUSED  
PUB TO BE USED AS A COMMUNITY CENTRE.  
THROUGH THIS PUBLIC ART PROGRAMME,  
WE WANT TO FIND OUT:  
• WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE RUN  
FROM THIS SPACE IN THE LONG TERM?  
• IS THIS WHAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WANT?  
• HOW CAN WE RUN THE SPACE PERMANENTLY?  
• WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

ACTIVITIES  
& DANCING

CAKES & CRECHE

GARDENING

COMMUNITY  
MAKER  
WORKSHOPS

PERFORMING  
+ BINGO  
with  
THE OASIS  
SOCIAL CLUB

DROP  
INS  
&  
MORE  
WORKSHOPS

SPORTS

LIBRARY

PROGRAMME OVERLEAF



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND







Clay workshops: bring a plate – creating a prototype table setting, from the plates found in the community





Aerobics, bingo, tae kwondo, cooking, library sessions, coffee mornings, hula hooping, business development session, karaoke, sign writing, pool tournament, table tennis tournament, engraving, printing...





Community Celebration Event: Future of the Pub Photoshoot



DO WE  
WANT  
THE PUB  
FOREVER

Yes

No


|||





In 2017 – we were back on the green space in a tent....

The 4 week programme saw a weekly workshop to create a set of plates:

Making the plates with moulds, then glazing them and finally putting the lithographs on







An important moment: the community organised an event, and asked us to help....Bonfire night 2017



News

Opinion

Sport

Culture

Lifestyle

More ▾



Made in Stoke-on-Trent: Episode 2

## £1 For a House

Cities is supported by

Ravaged by years of cuts, the Portland street estate started selling

January 2018

The project was used as a case study by the Local Government Association on how councils can work with communities via arts projects.

The project and the area were the subject of a Guardian film.



**THIS IS  
YOUR SPACE  
WE NEED  
YOUR INPUT**

**THE PORTLAND  
INN PROJECT  
SUMMER  
PROGRAMME  
STARTS AUGUST 6**

**ARTISTS &  
DESIGNERS  
RESIDENCY**

**GET  
INVOLVED**

**RESIDENTS  
LOCAL SERVICES  
ARTISTS  
ARCHITECTS  
WORKING  
TOGETHER**

**DESIGN  
BUILD  
& MAKE  
FOR OUR  
FUTURE  
BUILDING**

**RE  
SIDE  
NTIAL  
FLAT**



**WORK-  
SHOP**

**THIS IS OUR  
BUILDING  
WHAT DO WE WANT?**

**SUPPORTED BY:**

**airspacegellery**

**PORTLAND STREET  
COMMUNITY GALLERY**



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**Aziz Foundation Grants  
for Individual Artists**



**LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS  
OF THE PROGRAMME**





Summer 2018 – Temporary Workshop, built with the Community





Raising The Roof, 2018: Ceramics workshops, architecture school, kids café, boxing, fashion, Glass making, gardening, film club, radio workshop, drawing... involving





airspacegallery

# THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT

October 26 to  
November 3, 2018

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Supported through public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

  
City of  
Stoke-on-Trent

## THE PORTLAND INN PROJECT

26 October to 3 November 2018  
Public Preview 26 October 4pm-8pm

The Portland Inn Project is a creative one project in partnership with The Portland Street Community Group, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Airspace Gallery and My Community Homes for a community in Stoke-on-Trent, where several properties were sold for £1, with the view of changing the fortunes of the area.

Over the last 4 years, artists Anna Francis and Rebecca Denton have built the project to a point where local and national attention has been attracted for its wonderful creativity and its aims. Airspace Gallery is pleased to host this special presentation exhibition of works and activities in the project to date, including a new installation in the Portland Inn, and tickets for the community coming up to celebrate what has already happened and start the planning for what's next.

**The Artists**  
**Anna Francis**  
Anna Francis is an artist and researcher whose practice aims to rebuild city resources through participatory art interventions. The creative situations for herself, the public and other artists to explore places differently often experimenting with leading and instructing by creating materials, like a leading pulled yarn. In recent years the interventions which Anna has worked on include the city of Stoke-on-Trent, and one on an artistic concept process to receive the region's materials, plus regional art skills. She aims to change the way the site is viewed, and potentially make changes, which can be temporary and sustainable.

The Project has recently secured the most transfer of a disused pub to the community, to be developed into a creative community building. Drawing on examples of successful, creative, and community-led development projects from across the UK, the approach is to develop the area a meeting and new community to design and deliver the future of this community asset, through an engaging public art programme.

While the project partners work in the background to secure the funds needed to regenerate the building, there is also a regular programme to involve the community in the existing project.

During the Summer 2018, The Portland Inn Project worked with Architects Buro2470, who recently delivered the Souths Portland or former Architects Buro2470. **Rebecca Denton** has been building a long-term project with the community and team to deliver a summer-long programme of activity which welcomed the local in front of the pub building for community use, enriched the area with high quality events and activities and involved the community in the next stages of the development project.

This exhibition documents the development of the Portland Inn Project to date and show some how the ground breaking project has:

- engaged local people to creative decision making about their area, and about the

future and sustainable permanent. Through this Anna aims to gain an understanding of the role of artists and city regeneration in the development of places.

Rebecca Denton is an artist with an embedded participatory practice that involves illustration, performance and event. She graduated from RCA in 2013, receiving the British Illustration Prize for Drawing. In 2017 she was made an Associate Artist at the Royal College of Art.

Rebecca has collaborated with City Support for years in England and Wales. They support The People's Bureau, collaborating with organisations such as the Labour Force Survey, Women's Association, UK's Shadow Dances and Creative London. The People's Bureau was recently made an associate of the Tate Exchange programme. Rebecca and Anna have been working on the ARTS Council award for Research in Art 2017. Her current project, The Creative Social Club, was selected to represent Great Britain during the 2018 European Council of Culture 2018 and completed a tour of Stoke-on-Trent, Preston and Hull, funded by Arts Council England.

The project is funded by Arts Council England and the Stoke-on-Trent Community Investment Fund, with individual artist support funding from The Arts Foundation.

Visit the project blog at:  
[www.theportlandproject.tumblr.com/](http://www.theportlandproject.tumblr.com/)  
For more information please contact:  
Anna Francis, [anna@airspacegallery.org](mailto:anna@airspacegallery.org)

Within the exhibition there will be hands-on workshops, a special 'Portland Social' Curry and Chai night and a chance to hear from artists Anna Francis and Rebecca Denton, as they deliver on their talk series about the project. The exhibition includes the proposed architectural plans for the Portland Inn, developed by architect Gordon Eggle, in collaboration with the community of Portland Street.

## The Portland Inn Project Events

**Saturday 27th October**  
12-3pm  
Portland Street Community Lunch  
(Invited Guests)

**2-4pm**  
Pigeon Factory Drop In  
Portland St workshop  
(ALL WELCOME)

**Saturday 3rd November**  
12-3pm  
Portland Social:  
Chai and Curry Night



airspacegallery

**AirSpace Gallery** is a collaborative, artist-led project in Stoke-on-Trent, providing creative opportunities, studio and exhibiting space and support for artists and curators. Currently, particularly concerned with issues surrounding collaborative partnership working and a relational network with its location and the socio-political landscape, AirSpace Gallery brings critical, high-quality contemporary art to the region through a dynamic and evolving programme of exhibitions, residencies and public realm activities.

**Visit AirSpace Gallery**  
4 Broad Street  
City Centre  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST1 4LL

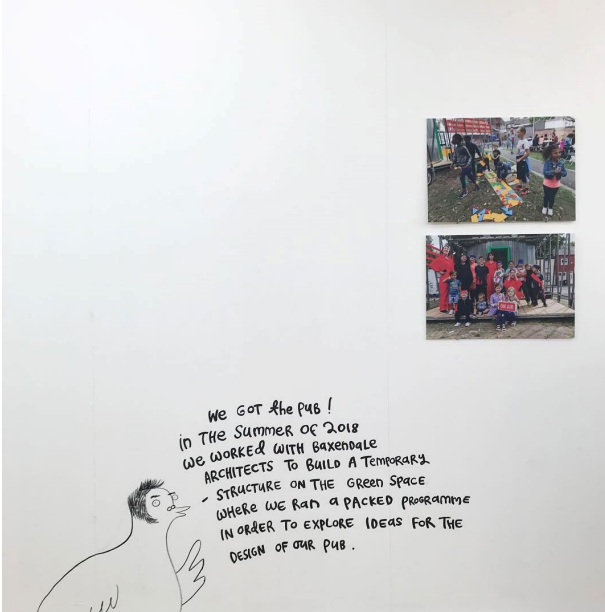
Open during exhibitions  
Thursday to Saturday  
11.00am to 5.00pm  
Tuesday and Wednesdays by appointment  
[info@airspacegallery.org](mailto:info@airspacegallery.org)  
+44(0)1829 20 1221

  
Stoke-on-Trent  
City Council

  
LOTTERY FUNDED







AirSpace Gallery,  
 Installation shots  
 2018



Local

STORIES:

introduce ourselves!



DAY ONE

WITH  
GODSON  
EGBO

BRAINSTORMING

What facilities do  
we need?

How can our building  
address these needs?

The  
Portland  
Inn  
Get involved

The  
Portland  
Inn  
Get involved

Get  
involved  
We  
all  
+ trying  
so  
well  
FW!

The  
Portland  
Inn  
Get involved

We  
do  
you  
want  
to  
join?

The  
Portland  
Inn  
is a great  
community  
come have  
fun!

THE TRANSFORMATIVE  
POWER OF  
ARCHITECTURE:

Use + misuse of  
architecture to  
affect our urban +  
social environment

Reasons to be Cheerful: or why do we only show the good bits?













SATURDAY  
LAST DAY PARTY  
TWELVE TIL SIX

FORWARD  
TOGETHER

NO SMOKING

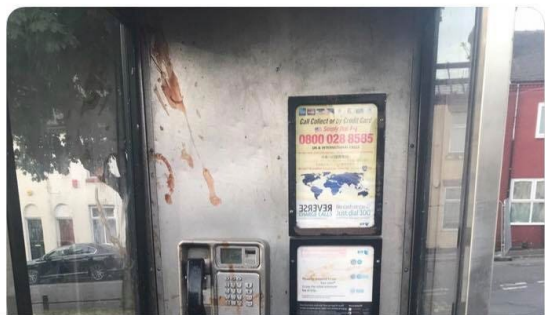


Tweet



Rebecca Davies  
@rebeccamdavies

Hey [@bt\\_uk](#) - we, the community of Portland St have repeatedly asked you to remove this telephone box that attracts dealers and drug taking. [@RuthSmeeth](#) held you to account at Parliament. Reckon turning it around makes it better? NO. Get it gone.



Tweet your reply



Tweet



BT Care [@BTCare](#) · 04/08/2018

Replying to [@rebeccamdavies](#)

Hi Rebecca, you can send a request to get this removed here [customer.serv.payphones@bt.com](mailto:customer.serv.payphones@bt.com).  
^Aisling

1 2 1



Rebecca Davies [@rebe...](#) · 04/08/2018

We've requested time and time again. Its even been discussed in Parliament thanks to [@RuthSmeeth](#) ~ You refused and turned the box around. The anti social activity continues. We want this box removed. I'll email too - but we're so tired of this.

1 2 1



BT Care [@BTCare](#) · 04/08/2018

I completely understand your concern Rebecca. Please email our payphone team and they will do all they can to help.  
^Clare

1 2 1

Tweet your reply



Tweet



[@annafrancisart](#)

Update on the [@bt\\_uk](#) phone box on Portland St. 2 weeks on -in the same state. They say: 'We have arranged for our engineer to be sent out in the next five working days to clean this payphone. At the moment we have no plans to remove this payphone.' Shameful - only used for drugs.



Tweet your reply



4 weeks later...





SATURDAY  
LAST DAY PARTY  
TWELVE TIL SIX

FORWARD  
TOGETHER

NO SMOKING











**ME**





Questions: we are now going to have time to explore some questions raised by our conversations so far



**In your experience, what have been the biggest challenges for you when working in places of change/with people - And how did you navigate these?**



**What are the guiding principles for you, in working in social contexts, where are the absolute lines in the sand?**



**What issues, relating to the representation of projects have you faced and how do you feel about showing both the good and the more challenging parts of projects?**



**What additional support do you need/ what would be most helpful to you, in order to continue to work in these contexts? What strategies do you employ, to enable the work to happen?**



**Lets come up with 5 rules (in each group) for how artists working in places of change can ensure good practice, and support each other in the coming years.**



**Lets vote on our top 3 each.**



**Now lets see what the top 10 are:**  
**Are we happy?**  
**Is anything missing?**



**SHARE**



Evaluation: what will you do  
differently after the session today?

What worked?

What needed more work?