

## Internship Report

November 2013 - May 2014

Being an intern at Deveron Arts has been one of the most interesting experiences I have had so far.

After studying Art History in Venice and graduating a year ago, I started to develop my career path, a stage I've named as 'my learning process'. The structure and model of the Italian education system differs in many respects, so for several reasons during University, I didn't have many work experience opportunities, or the prospect to experience the practical aspect of a job within the arts field. Therefore, The Shadow Curator Internship was my first real experience within the arts, and I saw this as a great challenge, but one that would help me develop and understand my role, my skills and help me create a career plan for the future.

Throughout the 6 months at Deveron Arts, I have been constantly training. I have made mistakes, I have experienced a lot and learnt a lot. I saw my internship from three different aspects: the internal one, the semi-internal and the external. The internal refers to the relations and my job inside the Deveron Arts team; during my period in Huntly, I had the chance to work closely with the Project Manager, Kate Sargent, the Cultural Health Visitor, Catrin Jeans and the curator Claudia Zeiske. By working with different members of the team, I was able to learn numerous ways of running an art organization, including the structure and roles that lie within the organization. This was a very important point for me as it helped me understand the process of what is needed in an arts organization, and how an art organization should be composed. I was put in positions that allowed me to work with different people, which helped me to adapt myself to the changing situations. Furthermore, I learnt the different rhythms and the meaning to have a good team behind the development of projects.

The semi-internal aspect consists of my work related to the artists in residence. For the majority of my stay, the artists in residence were not there for a long period, except Sanaa Gateja, whom I shared the accommodation with for the first half of his residency. This can have positive and negative aspects. I wasn't able to focus on one or two projects and as there was so much going on this created moments of confusion. For me, it would have been much easier to concentrate on something specific, rather than following projects that had already started or were near the end, and because of this, it was difficult to understand the artists and their projects fully, due to the fact I wasn't present when they started. However, I see this as a positive attribute too as I had the chance to be involved at different stages of the following projects The Caravan Gallery and Jacques Coetzer's Aberdeenshire Ways, Hielan Way with Simone Kenyon, The Lines Lost project with Stuart McAdam, and finally the MacKay of Uganda project with Sanaa Gateja. I also had the privilege of meeting different artists such as Anthony Schrag, Gill Russell, Jake Williams, Gayle Chong Kwan, Claire Qualman, Alec Finlay, Tim Knowles, and Paul Anderson. Meeting these artists and being involved with all the projects gave me the chance to experience different approaches to develop my skills in relation to art projects. I gained a great knowledge and confidence that can allow me, in the future, to deal with the different issues that arise while working with artists. Towards the end of my internship, I was involved with the Slow Marathon project. Being in charge of marking the route created opportunities to work closely with artists Simone Kenyon and Sanaa Gateja. I really enjoyed helping them define and research their interventions throughout the event.

The final of the three aspects I have been referring to, the external, is my relation to the community. During my internship, I had the chance to challenge myself through creating relationships and being involved in the local community. The language at the beginning was one of the main obstacles, but through time and by helping the Cultural Health Visitor in the delivery of various activities, I was able to meet and start a dialogue with many people. I really enjoyed this part of the internship as I was able to find out about different traditions, listen to stories by others and exchange ideas and points of view about various topics. This helped me identify and learn about the true meaning of 'community', which in turn will assist with my methodology and research about the relationship between community and the arts.

Overall, I believe that this internship has given me confidence, understanding and a bit more experience within the arts. It has helped me to come to a decision for the next stage in my career; to start developing my own curatorial approach and projects within the arts.

Camilla Crosta  
25/05/2014