

LOCAL COMMERCE

Empty Shop – Modern Monument

Brander Building, Huntly, Aberdeenshire

2 May 2003, start 6 pm

Exhibition Opening and Panel Discussion

Local Commerce emerged out of a residency commissioned by Deveron Arts, for which the Danish artist Eva Merz was invited to live and work for a period of four months in the town.

Her time in Huntly culminates in an installation entitled which depicts a 1930's shop in the town which closed down some 20 years ago. The artist turned the shop into a 'modern monument' by bringing together issues addressing heritage, history, business, tourism and culture and thereby connecting commercial issues of a small rural town to wider global contexts. The installation is set up as a merchandise display typical to souvenir objects of our heritage properties. All the merchandise are limited editions, signed by the artist.

As part of the project we are planning a discussion around the theme of local commerce, addressing issues that connect arts, business and tourism in rural areas. The discussion will be structured through such questions as - can art/culture contribute to local commerce or even counteract rural economic decline? And if so, how? What is the role of tourism in the local context? What is the role of business in the rural cultural context?

Discussion panel members are:

Ian Dunlop, Chief Executive, Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board

Mark Ellington, local and international cultural activist

Ian Hunter, Director of Littoral and campaigner for arts and rural issues

Annie Lamb, Proprietor, Orb's bookshop, Huntly

Robert Livingstone, Director, High-Art

Eva Merz, Artist

Philip Morrisson, Director, Rizza's Ice-Cream, Huntly

Bill Morton, Senior Director Operations, Scottish Enterprise

Euan Shand, Whisky Merchant, Huntly

The evening will be of interest to the Scottish art audience, local businesses, representatives of larger businesses in the area, enterprise trusts, the tourism industry and the general public in Huntly.

For more information phone Eva on 07788622442 or Claudia 01466-792734

The exhibition will be open:

Brander Museum until 17 May: Tuesday to Saturday 2 pm - 4.30 pm

Artists talk 7 May, 7 pm

Peacock visual arts, Aberdeen, 20 May - 21 June, Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 - 5.30

Launch of Publication/Artist Talk, 30 May, 7 pm

Supported by: Scottish Arts Council, Carnegie UK Trust

Deveron Arts is based in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. The organisation's aim is to develop a model of arts participation, by engaging local audiences without compromising the quality of the artistic experience. For Deveron Arts the town is the venue, - where discrete events take place in existing spaces, rather than any specified building. Huntly as a town is conceived not only as a venue and a place for artists to live, work, exhibit and perform, but also as a centre for communication and the exchange of ideas for all involved: the community, the artist and Deveron Arts as the 'choreographer'.