

Wellcome Trust Extension Award

Primitive Streak July 2010 Interim Report

Progress to date - Artist Statement:

Workshops on textiles and fashion content

Since receiving the grant Helen, Trish Belford (University of Ulster) and Aoife Ludlow, have met three times to explore and identify the textile techniques we could invent, or deploy, to elucidate key stages, and or structures, of the developing human lung.

To date these have been as follows:

- The Bifurcation process as a whole
- The Alveoli and gaseous exchange
- The structures of the lobes
- The Trachea, function and structure
- The presence and role of surfactant in the taking of a first breath.
- The surface area and scale of lungs at birth

We have also been working on the added sensory experience of viewing the finished piece, and will be designing the installation to allow each visitor to wear their own stethoscope placed at their own throats, providing the isolated sound of their own breath, as a unique and personalised soundscape to the piece. We are also considering the timed use of coloured light to indicate the difference between an 'in and out' breath from a gaseous exchange point of view.

To deepen her knowledge of lung development in particular, Helen is now also working with Professor Daffyd Walters based at St Georges Hospital. He is an expert in lung development in the young, and will also be providing rare imagery and film footage of a first breath taken under X ray conditions in the 50's, to add to the growing bank of educational material we will provide on the web.

Artistic developments:

* Crucially, from a design perspective Helen has realized that all three venues have very large atrium space, and so to add new dynamism to the collection, and to respond architecturally to spaces in which it will be exhibited, has taken the decision to design the elucidation of lung development vertically, to fill the space. The dress from which the lung buds begin to emerge will be made of 'earth' allowing us to make the connection between living and breathing matter, as well as respond to the 'indoor garden' in which the collection will first be exhibited in

Sheffield. (see images of the venue)

The finished piece, which was previously conceived, as three separate dresses will, as per a conversation with Meroe Candy, now be one of about 10 meters high, adding unexpected drama to the collection in terms of public interaction and media response.

* In terms of our chosen imagery to inspire the finished piece, we have been working with the Lab of Professor Mark Krasnow, from Stanford University, and he has given us permission to work with footage and images his lab has recently generated.

* The Actress Tilda Swinton, has expressed an interest in working with us on Primitive Streak, and would be the new face of the collection for the photographic campaign that would be generated to give the collection new life. The photographer has been identified and a shoot scheduled. A key media partner will be put in place to open the campaign and other broad media will follow, planned ahead with our partners.

Next steps:

Next steps for the artistic development of the work include:

- Finalising the textile samples and beginning to work to scale
- Working with the Architect Professor Jeremy Till, (Dean of Architecture at Westminster University), on the final scale and relationship to the venue space. (New drawings to be generated as part of works in progress)
- Beginning the various make techniques for the finished piece, including heat-sealing, as well as more traditional craft finishes.
- Start work on the film to support the project. ('works in progress' footage has been captured along the way)
- Pattern for "Earth dress" started.
- Arrange details of shoot for new images of the collection.
- Begin to integrate the educational and public information side of the project into the web - designed presence (Kate has prepared these web pages from a science information point of view already).
- Start work on the installation design and signage and public communication material.
- Condition the original PS pieces ready for exhibiting.

Progress to Date:

Production and Delivery statement by Caroline Coates

Overview

In line with the application this statement below clarifies progress to date and shows how the team are endeavoring to meet the original objectives.

1. Venues: 3 Cities

To meet current demand, it is proposed to show in 3 cities - Sheffield, Newcastle and London, in February, March and April 2011 (see Appendix 1: touring schedule). Dialogues with all 3 cities are ongoing and by September 2010 a full production plan will be in place to enable safe and timely delivery.

Key to the success of each city is the creation of a bespoke and tailored package with a distinct and different theme for each city. Sheffield - biomedical/respiratory health delivery with University of Sheffield; Newcastle – events focused around fashion and science for Science Month, and for London, with Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, an emerging theme on awareness of lung and respiratory health.

Meetings held in July with all 3 city partners show great enthusiasm for delivery of bespoke public packages targeted at specific local audiences, for example in Sheffield the focus will be on respiratory health, in Newcastle clothing as a metaphor to explain science and working with local respiratory health and lung charities, and in London, working with targeted groups such as neonatal departments and more. These programmes will be constructed over the next 9 months.

2. Graphics and Public understanding Materials

- Kate Storey is researching new public understanding materials (as reported to Wellcome staff in April) with 2 embryologists at the University of Dundee. These will elucidate using contemporary images and words, all key biological stages aimed at a 12 year old's level. These will be ready in October.
- A meeting will be held with DED graphics team to devise style and framework/settings for these texts, to be placed beside each exhibit.
- New text on the detail of the Lung Dress will be specifically created to focus on this new centrepiece.

- DED will further create graphic materials of the highest standard both within and around the work to enable its promotion.
- A new web portal will be created to support the tour (ready January 2011). This will later incorporate film.

3. Production meetings. August – February 2011

- Site visits all 3 cities (minimum of one per city)
- RISKE/COSHE assessments produced as required
- Graphics/Design meeting held – September, November, December
- Education/Outreach/Audience development held with each venue and assorted parties in each city.
- Film and photo shoots organised by Helen.
- Evaluation meetings held with Imogen Slater.

4. Next steps

- Meeting between Helen Storey, Caroline Coates and Kate Storey held in September to cross check all arrangements.
- Production plans and any further meetings had with each city,

5. Education Development

- HSF is working with all 3 venues in Sheffield, Newcastle and London to ensure schools, teachers and other educational groups are aware of the project. Specifically in Newcastle, Claire Willis at Durham science Centre will lead on all educational aspects; and at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Katherine Mellor and team will work specifically with the Hospital School. Work will continue to strengthen the links with all 3 venues over the next 9 months.
- HSF also working with Portchester Community School (Hampshire) to chronicle new education packages.
- Local detailed plans will be delivered by/with each venue as appropriate.

6. Evaluation

Preliminary discussions have been held with Imogen Slater. This work will be developed during the next 9 months in preparation for delivery of work in the 3 cities.

7. Budget

- HS has determined (see above) that the design and delivery of 1 spectacular lung dress will extend her practise and create drama, magic and scientific accuracy. This comes with a cost and currently further funding is being sought with the University of Sheffield and the Centre for Life in Newcastle to find an additional £10000 to cover the cost of this dress. At July, Newcastle and Sheffield partners are confident that these budgets will be finalised by September. Then there is some likelihood that Chelsea Westminster Health Charity may also make a contribution once these donations are evident.
- Further funding is required to deliver local activities. Dialogue with the University of Sheffield and the Centre of Life Newcastle will generate funds to cover this locally. These are also currently under discussion and the prospects are good.
- Other than this, the budget is in line with the application.

8. Next Steps

Project will end in May 2011. Evaluation will be available from July 2011. Further requests for additional touring are anticipated.

Any challenges/problems/issues we have met so far

- As elucidated above, the artistic challenge of producing work of aesthetic and contemporary quality has now been addressed by Helen Storey with the development of 1 big dress.
- The venues themselves present challenging and opportunistic spaces. By using the full height in each city venue, site-specific drama has been created.
- Budgetary challenges that ensue as a result of creating 1 big lung dress are being addressed with the venue partners.
- Kate Storey is taking time to ensure that science materials reflect the best current imagery and knowledge.

Changes to the original plan

All proposed changes to date have been either discussed with Wellcome or are highlighted above. We believe we Wellcome Trust's full agreement.

Any changes to timescales/milestones to be agreed

The end date will be August 2011 rather December as stated in the application.

Visuals

For sketches of the new lung dress, please see Appendix 2.

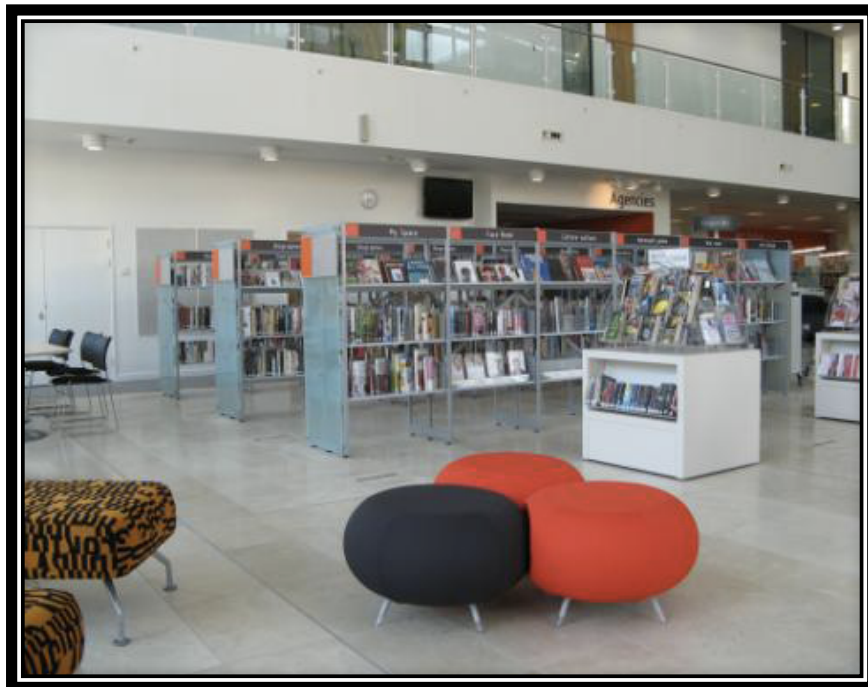
Venue images:



Winter Garden Sheffield



Chelsea and Westminster Hospital



Proposed venue for Newcastle to be confirmed in September 2010 with the Centre for Life and other venue partners