

Great art for everyone



West Midlands edition: July 2009

Artsmark



Wizard of Oz, Courtyard Theatre Hereford
Photo: James Mason

Artsmark is the Arts Council's national award scheme which recognises schools with a high level of provision in the arts. The scheme encourages schools to consider the opportunities they offer in art, dance, drama and music.

By gaining an Artsmark, a school shows its commitment to the wider development of young people and teachers and to raising the profile of the arts in the school and the local community. 1648 schools across the whole of England have achieved Artsmark status this year.

We are pleased to announce that 190 schools have achieved Artsmark status in the West Midlands. This year also sees the first awards to 10 Pupil Referral Units nationally. We are delighted to have 6 Artsmark Pupil Referral Units in our region. This follows our Artsmark training to Pupil referral units in 2008.

This year's West Midlands Artsmark Awards celebration event took place in June at the Town Hall in Birmingham. The Arts Council continued its tradition of handing over the event to young people to plan, manage and run. Arts Council worked in partnership with [Bright Space](#) and the Bright Space Youth Panel.

The youth panel is made up of young people from six Birmingham

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Opportunities

For the latest information on Grants for the arts surgeries and other opportunities in the West Midlands [click here](#).



Amplifying the map
Kate Chapman and
Charlotte Goodwin
Site and Sounds
programme, mac

News in brief

Open Weekend

The Cultural Olympiad Open Weekend takes place on the 24 – 26 July 2009. To find out what is happening in your area [click here](#).

Arts Engagement Data

The first ever

secondary schools who worked on the planning of the event with cultural organisations. The event was compered by Bright Space Youth Panel and Barbara Nice with speeches from Dreadlock Alien, Ammo Talwar (Punch Records and Arts council regional Council member) and Deborah Kermode, Director of Bright Space. We saw a variety of superb high quality performances from Artsmark schools selected by the youth panel showcasing animation, dance, music and drama.

Monitoring the impact of recession



Shaun Morris, Seek My Face exhibition
Photo: Multistory

The West Midlands Cultural Observatory is coordinating a survey with cultural organisations and venues on the impact of the recession. The survey for April to June 2009 is now live.

Can you help by responding to this survey? If you are an arts, media, heritage or sports organisation based in the West Midlands and would be willing to take part please complete the survey by 17 July 2009.

To access the survey click [here](#).

For further information contact Lauren on 0121 202 3249 or email lauren.amery@wmro.org.

One & Other

comparable data on arts engagement across all 353 local authorities in England was published on the 18 June 2009, complementing the arts engagement figures for upper-tier local authorities released last December. To find out more visit the [DCMS website](#).



One & Other
© James O'Jenkins

I am really excited and nervous - I wonder if my kids will think it's cool or that I have lost the plot?

Monday 6 July 2009 saw the start of *One & Other*, the Antony Gormley project which will see a different person take their place on the Fourth Plinth every hour, 24 hours a day for 100 days.

Open to everyone over the age of 16, *One & Other* has received 14,500 applications to date from all over the country from people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures.

More than 35 people from the West Midlands have been selected for the first round of 'plinthers', including a head teacher, a road safety officer and an anthropologist. Here are some thoughts from the West Midlands participants,

This seemed such a 'power to the people' type of event that was too good to miss. I have no idea what to do with my hour and will be enlisting the ideas of the school kids I lead. They were partly the inspiration behind putting myself up for this thing anyway.

Headteacher, 42, Rugby

Street art seems to me about exhibitionism, but I don't think that is what this is about, at least I hope not because I won't be any good at performance.

As I am only going to do this once in a life time, I want to do it for me and no one else. What I would like to do is record everything I can see whilst I'm there so that I will remember it forever. So I think what I will do is take a sketch pad and if I can, an easel, definitely a camera. I hope it won't be too dark. I guess it may be boring for passers by - I imagine some participants will do wonderful performances.

Civic Secretary, Lichfield

I'm 16 years old and I'm thinking of dressing up as a dinosaur.
Student, Rugby

I want to be part of history and enjoy my hour of fame! My act is to remain a surprise for now.
Sales Person, Birmingham

Why get involved in this project? The appeal is that here, life IS art rather than merely imitating it. Anything can happen and even the weather isn't guaranteed. I also wanted to stand up and be noticed, rather than be part of the crowd for once.

My present plan is to spend my hour on the plinth in a pin-strip suit, working on my laptop and blackberry as a symbol of our "endless, mobile work ethic!"
Marketing Manager, Birmingham

Applications for the project are still open and can be made at www.oneandother.co.uk.

One & Other is commissioned by the Mayor of London. Watch all the action live from the plinth every Friday at 7pm on Sky Arts 1/HD and on 6th July @ 8.15am.

Please [use this link](#) if you would like to unsubscribe from this mailing.

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