

Developed through Strategic Insight  
collaboration between the  
National Centre for Ceramics Studies, Wales  
Cardiff School of Art and Design  
and the Artworks Cymru Partnership.



## Observing Participatory Practice (Creating Opportunities to Learn)



Back to the Studio

Transformative Experience

Safe Space

NAME or DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOP:

Beginnings and Endings:

The 'Observing Participatory Practice' framework was created by Melania Warwick and Dr Natasha Mayo to help students collate and reflect upon structures and approaches in participatory arts delivery.

Seeking innovative ways to integrate civic arts opportunities as part of professional practice in arts education at HE level.

This 'Observing Practice' initiative was informed by research undertaken by Cardiff Ceramics graduates:

Donna Leach  
Jane Plahé  
Charlotte Burke  
Imogen Higgins

## Beginnings and Endings

**How does the artist hold and frame the session in terms of how it starts and ends?**

**How is the developing practice remembered and reflected upon?**

**More Detail:**

- 1) *How are participants helped to understand the aims and objectives of the workshop?*
- 2) *How is confidence developed, memory supported and goals set via informal conversation, journals, recap, review, praise?*
- 3) *How is existent skill base identified and the transferability of skills encouraged between participants*

## Creating a Safe Space

**What is contained within the immediate environment that is either conducive or an obstacle to creativity taking place?**

**What might the 'participants' bring with them in terms of behaviour, expectation and physical ability that is either conducive or an obstacle to creativity taking place?**

**How does the way space is organised contribute to a feeling of safety?**

**More Detail:**

- 1) *Location is a key factor, and where necessary key staff to support transitions into and out of spaces.*
- 2) *Room layout / position of seating and its utility can support confidentiality and develop group cohesion.*
- 3) *Facilities can contribute to a feeling of sociability, relaxation and being 'at home' such as tea, coffee and teacakes.*
- 4) *Continued learning can be encouraged if the materials used are easily accessible both within the workshop and (economically) outside the workshop*
- 5) *Conversation is often kept close to art practice and away from personal details.*
- 6) *Participants are from a similar age group, family or community.*

## A Transformative Experience

**What is the 'transformational' aspect of this workshop? i.e. what has changed in the knowledge of those involved?**

**How was 'new' knowledge delivered?**

**More Detail:**

- 1) *Working from small to large groups to develop confidence*
- 2) *Taking strategic steps in learning art skills*
- 3) *Peer to peer learning via directed questions (problems, suggestions)*
- 4) *Celebration / show & tell opportunities such as exhibition as outcome to focus direction.*
- 5) *Focus on transferable skills and models for community champions to take forward*
- 6) *Support to academic attainment, not outcome driven*

## Relevance to the Studio

**In what ways are art materials being used in ways different to existing contemporary practices?**

**Do these innovations offer potential within your own studio practice?**

**More Detail:**

- 1) *If effective, the art forms used will have clear relationship to professional practice, external context and potential career trajectory.*
- 2) *A combination of art forms often works well to support development of new as well as traditional skills*
- 3) *How can 'participatory arts' maintain innovation in art outcome?*

Transformative Experience

Back to the Studio

NAME or DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOP:

Beginnings and Endings:

Safe Space

Transformative Experience

Back to the Studio

NAME or DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOP:

Beginnings and Endings:

Safe Space

Transformative Experience

NAME or DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOP:

Beginnings and Endings:

Transformative Experience

NAME or DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHOP:

Beginnings and Endings:

Back to the Studio

Safe Space

Back to the Studio

Safe Space