

The Full Picture Summary

For this commission I proposed to make work that researched the barriers working-class community and creatives face within the creative industries. Once the commission began research took me to hone in particularly at adult literacy and art literacy and their connections to Dundee.

Instigating findings

- Scotland had the highest rate of adult literacy problems in the whole of the UK with 1 in 4 adults struggling in some way related to their lack of literacy skills¹.
- Working-class occupations attend less cultural engagement than any other occupations, but more than two thirds attend contemporary over classical.²
- The SIMD data map highlighted a significant amount of Dundee is living in the 20% most deprived zones.³
- From the SIMD data there are areas in Dundee that 70% of the working population have no qualifications and less than 3% accessing higher education.⁴
- Dundee is behind the rest of Scotland in terms of Social Mobility.⁵
- There are similarities between the twelve most deprived areas in terms of education and the link to housing purpose built for industry workers.

Where the project went

I chose to concentrate on the barriers working-class creatives and communities may face in creative industries from a personal perspective, that I believe is a shared collective experience. That is the struggle with literacy and art literacy. I have often found myself not being able to access material in an art gallery or online due to the basis of it being text heavy and/or the text is just not accessible. Developing this idea, I made a split screen moving image work to express the feelings, I, myself have experienced and that of my friends and family that do not feel creative industries welcoming. I also chose to create a series of prints looking at the SIMD data maps and removing the data and putting visuals of analogue photography along with the data zone marker, a subversion of sorts of the access to so much data that it's overwhelming and the detachment of the places they are about.

¹<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/adult-literacy/>

² <https://createlondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Panic-Social-Class-Taste-and-Inequalities-in-the-Creative-Industries1.pdf>

³ https://simd.scot/#/simd2020_20pc/BTTTTFTT/12/-2.9695/56.4772/

⁴ https://simd.scot/#/simd2020_20pc/BTTTTFTT/12/-2.9695/56.4772/

⁵ Lopez, Marisol, 2020, *Achieving fairness? Challenging poverty and social exclusion through partnership working*, University of Dundee, PHD Thesis

Hopeful opened doors

I made contact with the Mitchell Centre's Literacy Services team and although this has been a slow engagement (too slow for working on this project) I hope to work with them in the future.

I also contacted Erin Farley and she sent me wonderful archive material for this research that helped me see more clearly about Dundee's history and how that and social mobility issues have impacted certain areas in Dundee periodically.

I had hoped to create a toolkit built on some of the research where the creative industries can try combat these barriers.

Places I Went (metaphorically speaking)

Books

- Estates by Lynsey Hanley
- Respectable by Lynsey Hanley
- Family Secrets By Annette Kuhn
- Steal As Much As You Can by Nathalie Olah
- Poverty Safari by Darren McGarvey

Reports

- PANIC Its and arts emergency - Social Class, Taste and Inequalities in the Creative Industries, Create London, 2018 - <https://createlondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Panic-Social-Class-Taste-and-Inequalities-in-the-Creative-Industries1.pdf>
- Skills Development Scotland: Annual Review 2020 - <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46835/annual-review-2019-20.pdf>
- State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain, Page 121 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf
- Skills Development Scotland: Regional Skills Assessment Tayside, September 2020- <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47102/rsa-infographic-tayside.pdf>
- Arts Council England - Breaking barriers: on class and social mobility in arts and culture - <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/breaking-barriers-class-and-social-mobility-arts-and-culture-0>
- Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland: Literacy Report - https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/publication_1677.pdf
- CREATIVE FUTURES, Susan Potter, Fair Access to the Arts: Investigating the barriers to accessing mainstream arts opportunities for disabled and/or marginalised artists and writers, 2015 - <https://www.creativefuture.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/FINAL-Barriers-to-Access-report.pdf>