

THE
TOWN
IS THE
VENUE



faceloop

Geographies of Friendship

Summer 2013

**Friendships, talking,
trains, slow walking,
wanderlust and home-
sickness ...**

Celia - Yunior arrived for a three month residency from Havana. In Cuba their projects expose gaps of social structures and regulations. *Faceloop* is about friendship relationships, for which during their time in Huntly, Celia González and Yunior Aguiar are gathering information about our town friendships. The place becomes the space where we can find direct human relations along side cybernet connections. To do this the artists ask people to introduce them to one of their friends, asking them again for an introduction, like a chain letter or Chinese whisper, thereby creating a human contact net, mapping all the real friendships in town. By meeting them at home as well as in public places, their investigation will result in a Huntly map showing the face-to-face connections among townfolks and the ways people keep them alive, in our era of internet driven social networking.



Deveron
Arts

What constitutes a friend?



Projects — Projects — Projects



Fernweh - Travelling Curator Project

30 April to 4 May 2013

Fernweh (from German) - literally translated means 'farsickness' or an 'ache for the distance'. Some dictionaries also translate it into 'wanderlust' or 'itchy feet'. Antonyms: Heimweh (homesickness)

Fernweh was an international travelling-curator project investigating notions of travel and hospitality within community and socially engaged art. A group of eight established and emerging curators with a keen interest in socially engaged arts were sent by train on a journey from Huntly via Lumsden, Helmsdale and Inverness to Skye and back again. On their journey they investigated notions of travel, hospitality and social engagement through a hosting, visiting and travelling programme. The participating curators were:

Mary Jane Jacob, and **Gibran Villalobos**, both School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Luiz Vergara, Director, Museo de Arte Contemporanea, MAC, Niteroi, Brazil and **Jessica Gogan**, MESA (Mediation, Encounters, Society and Art), Brazil/Ireland

Ernesto Pujol, conceptual artist and educator, Cuba/USA and **Nuno Sacramento**, Director SSW, Scotland/Portugal

Claudia Zeiske, Deveron Arts, Scotland/Germany and **Gayle Meikle**, independent curator, Glasgow, Scotland.

At each hosting place the visitors discussed one of the following topics together with members of the communities:

Collaboration + Dialogue at SSW in Lumsden
Community + Place at Timespan in Helmsdale
Travel + Remoteness at ATLAS on Isle of Skye
Urban + Rural with IOTA in Inverness
and finally Hospitality + Visiting at Deveron Arts in Huntly.

In the course of the final day the participants - travellers, community members, curators, artists - discussed different sides, characteristics and implications of hospitality and travelling, starting from Deveron Arts' hospitality programme. The second part of the day offered a "lunch walk" by visiting a number of Town Collection hosts like the Gordon Arms Hotel, the Bookshop, the Carpet

Centre and the Whisky Shop, while trying some Huntly Signature Menu appetisers. In the afternoon the travelling curators reviewed their experiences, discussions and findings from the journey at the Empty Shop. Day and journey were completed with a community Ceilidh in the Tin Hut.

Haste ye back soon in Huntly Toon!

Caravan Gallery: Huntly Pride of Place

15 July -15 August 2013

This summer the Caravan Gallery is coming to Huntly. Led by the artists Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale, the Caravan Gallery is not only a mobile exhibition venue, but also a visual arts project, involving the local communities of every place that it stops.

Their work exposes ordinary and extraordinary details of the everyday life and they create exhibitions with the help of local communities on the basis of their findings. This way they bring people from all walks of life together, who would not normally meet, and get them to talk and interact. By investigating places aside from the promises of tourist information brochures and trying to capture



the sense of a place, they are able to discover things that local people overlook or have never even seen, revealing either typical characteristics or random features of a place. They explore the local identity without whitewashing or skipping facts and gather true knowledge of local leisure, activities, lifestyle and culture. The outcomes of their observations and their interaction with local communities result in establishing a relationship with a place and its people.

Depending on the project, topic and location, Jan and Chris put on exhibitions in their caravan, national and international galleries, empty shops, village halls or every other suitable place in the UK or abroad.

In Huntly, the Caravan Gallery will set up an alternative tourist information office on the Square, applying their "Pride of Place"-methodology to the town. Townfolks and visitors are invited to take part in exploring the local identity and the sense of place of Huntly and its Room to Roam motto, by contributing their observations, creations and anecdotes. Oh this space! Watch this place!

Past & Ongoing

With and against the Flow

An ongoing project with musician Jake Williams who walked with the flow of the river Deveron and ceramicist Anne Murray who is walking against the flow.

Mbereko

Nancy Mteki worked with mother and toddler groups in Huntly on her project Mbereko exploring motherhood, nurturing and materialism, reflecting on the role of toys in childhood in Africa and Europe. Nancy is now invited to show her work at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. A publication is in the making.

Dates for your Diary

In Town events

Tue 18 June, 7 pm

Artists Walk-Talk: Stuart McAdam

Along the Inverness Railway line

Start: Empty Shop

Fri 21 June, 7.30 pm

Summer Solstice Walk - with Anne Murray

Evening walk to the River Deveron source

Tue 16 - Thur 18 July, 12.45 -15.45

Outdoor Summer School

Variety of events for the whole family

Wed 24 July, 7 pm

History of Walking Competition

Walk-Talk by Ron Brander

Venue: Empty Shop

Fri 26 July, 4 pm

Shop Keepers' Walking Competition
recreation of the 1903 Huntly Shop Keepers
Walking Competition

Tue 30 July, 7 pm

Caravan Gallery, Artists' Talk
Empty Shop

5-10 August

Huntly Music Summerschool
<http://huntlysummerschool.org.uk>

10-11 August

Pride of Place

Room to Roam Tourism weekend with
Caravan Gallery and Stuart McAdam

Sun 8 September

Wild Food Walk

Part of Huntly Hairst
www.huntlyhairst.co.uk

September, tbc

Classes in Outdoor skills: map reading, how
to use GPS, etc.

The world's big and I want to have a good look at it before it gets dark.

John Muir

Walking — Walking — Walking

SLOW MARATHON

Following on from the first Slow Marathon in 2012, initiated by the Ethiopian artist Mihret Kebede, Deveron Arts organised a second Slow Marathon on Saturday 20 April. This now annual event also served as a launch for Deveron Arts' brand new initiative, the Walking Institute. The weekend of events was opened by nature writer Jim Crumley and ended on Sunday with an animated discussion on John Muir entitled *Nature at Home* with speakers, Mike Daniels of John Muir Trust, artists Gill Russell and Penny Weir and renowned bird of prey expert Roy Dennis.

With fantastic weather conditions, the Slow Marathon walkers took a 26 mile route through the Upper Cabrach area along the River Deveron and over the Clashmach to Huntly. Peppared with entertainment and refreshment stops, the route followed some of an original Hielan' Way, crossing largely unexplored countryside.

Piper Steve Brown marked the start of the event which was supported by local businesses, organisations and volunteers providing refreshments; from the Grouse Inn and the Acorn Centre, tasty cinnamon buns at the Mill of Lynebain, a shortbread stop donated by Deans of Huntly at Bailliesward, a pop-up cafe with all donations going to the John Muir Trust at Cairnagatt and a well welcomed whisky stop sponsored by Cost Cutters featured at the top of Clashmach. Once back at the Brander Building participants were treated to further refreshments, stretching, foot spas and their well deserved certificates for completing the Slow Marathon.

In contrast to most sporting events, the winner of the Slow Marathon was the slowest of the slowest of them all: Sophie Hope. Sophie's finishing time was 12 hours and 45 minutes whilst the loser,



Harris Williamson (aged 15) finished 4 hours before. "I can't believe I did it!" said Sophie, "it took me 12 hours and I won a prize - the slowest walker!"

Slow Walker Valerie Milne said "really fantastic, and I was absolutely knocked out by the hospitality of all the people on route who made it a really wonderful and enjoyable day".

Deveron Arts has a keen interest in the concept and activity of walking. Our ambition is to set up a unique and new walking appreciation initiative, which will become a centre of excellence for the

walking & arts discourse. This will include both research and physical activities produced through artist-led projects, taking place both in Huntly and beyond.

Thanks to everybody, who was involved in the making of the Slow Marathon 2013. See you back in 2014!

Lost Lines

**Stuart McAdam traces closed railway branch lines in the North East
June - August 2013**

Marking 50 years since Dr. Beeching decimated the British railway system, artist Stuart McAdam is to trace the remains of branch lines closed as a consequence of "The Reshaping of British Railways" report. Commissioned by the Deveron Arts' Walking Institute initiative, Stuart's project, 'Lines Lost', will see him reawaken routes that have been subsumed into the landscape, remain as ghostly traces of lines that once linked communities or have been given a new purpose in the last 50 years.



The North of Scotland was one of the areas most affected by the Beeching cuts; closing many stations on the Aberdeen Inverness route and stopping train routes such as Huntly to Banff and Portsoy, Banff - Tillynought, Fraserburgh - St Combs, Elgin - Lossiemouth, Aberdeen - Ballater and Fraserburgh, Maud - Peterhead and Aviemore - Elgin via Inverness. Many of these lines that crossed the county have never been replaced by other forms of public transport making journeys difficult and adding hours to travel time for those without access to private cars - people have to travel south to Aberdeen or north to Elgin to get connections and often have long waits between buses. This summer McAdam will walk all of these routes starting with those from Huntly to Banff and Portsoy. He will interrogate the historical and contemporary resonances of these routes through documented walks. "Remnants of most of the lines still exist within the landscape and I hope to reawaken them into public consciousness", says McAdam, who has explored journeys, boundaries and slow travel in a range of artworks. "As we mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Beeching report, this is a fitting time to consider the impact that the cuts had on the development and decline of the many towns and villages that lay along the historic routes, which were often life lines for outlying communities."

Stuart's *Lost Lines* project will retrace routes that were once vital in linking dispersed communities in rural areas. It will encourage us all to think about the historical, cultural and social impacts of the report that changed the lives of communities across the UK.



Dates for your Diary

Out of Town events

Wed 12 June: Steep Trail Conference
Queensferry, Claudia Zeiske talks about the Walking Institute plans

Mon 17 June: Edinburgh Lunchtime walk
Meet at the Creative Scotland offices, Waverley Place, bring packed lunch

Sat 29 June: ON WALKING Conference
Project Manager Diane Smith talks about the Walking Institute at Sunderland University

Sat 13 July: Art-Walking, Highgreen
Claudia Zeiske takes part in the panel discussion, 6 pm, www.varc.org.uk

Thur 1 August: Lines Lost Walk, 1.40 pm
Join artist Stuart McAdam for a guided walk and learn about his nomadic journeys and walking as a methodology for art production.
Start: entrance of Innocent Railway Path, Duddingston Road West, Edinburgh

Lines Lost Discussion, 4 pm
Artist Stuart McAdam and Claudia Zeiske will lead a discussion about the relationship between art, walking and transport in Scotland.

Discussion will be joined by:
Ellie Harrison: Bring Back British Rail campaign;
Nina Coulson: co-founder MOVEMENT gallery, Platform 2 Worcester station
David Spaven: ex British Rail manager and author of railway books

Venue: Royal Scottish Academy, the Mound
www.edinburghartfestival.com/events

In collaboration with Edinburgh Arts Festival

Stop Press - Stop Press

The Walking Institute Vision Document is now on our website:

www.deveron-arts.com/about/Walking-Institute

Celia - Yuniór talking about life and friendships in Cuba, Huntly & everywhere else

Celia and Yuniór, your project faceloop is about friendships here in Huntly playing on the popular social network facebook. How did the idea come about?

When we first came here in April, we didn't know anybody in town, besides the people from Deveron Arts. So we thought about combining the act of walking with visiting and meeting people and, thereby, getting to know the community. We wanted to meet people directly, face-to-face.

In every project we do, we try to find an unusual/different way to deal with the prevailing administrative mechanisms. In this case, we regard facebook as the mechanism which administers social relations and contacts among people. Facebook has its own way to "suggest" friends by using probabilities and numbers, profiles information and common denominators - losing the best part of meeting someone, being able look them in the eye; see their reactions, physically and emotionally speaking.

Do you use facebook at home in Cuba?

Internet and facebook are only available at very few places in Cuba, like for example at the University. But even at these places it works very, very slowly. So, the internet doesn't play such an important role there as here in Europe. You cannot really use it as a means of communication and it is therefore not that popular, as you tend to just go over to people's homes and meet them. You have mainly face-to-face-relationships rather than online-relationships. But if you want to get in touch with friends/people abroad you have to maintain an online-relationship. That's the only way these days.

It is a new experience for us to have unlimited access to the internet. It allows us to talk to our friends around the world (besides Cuba) much easier and faster. But it's also a new experience that people rather use the net to get in touch with people than to call or meet the person directly.

You related your project to the Dunbar number. What do you think about Dunbar's hypothesis?

Anthropologist and Psychologist Robin Dunbar has the hypothesis that 150 is the amount of people we are able to keep track of. In his book he starts from Darwin's evolutionary theory and goes through several arenas, like business, military, his own friends, seeking to prove how that number became a relevant social unit. So, 150 is our cognitive limit in our relationships. He also says that our social structures have a triad base. They have a growing pattern based on a multiple of three, identifying the closest circle of friends between 3 and 5 people, the next bigger circle about 15, 50 and finally 150. A lot of the findings of Dunbar seem to be right. You cannot really keep track of more than 150



Faceloop Finale: Saturday 15 June 2013

To mark the end of their friendship investigation Celia -Yuniór will turn their house into a Facebook inside out. With a friends room, event room, write on the wall opportunities, time line along the stairs, video room, and picture album room. They invite friends from in- and outside town to celebrate real friendship here there and everywhere.

people, not via facebook and not in real life. Very often we have facebook friends who are rather acquaintances (people you are involved with) than friends (people we meet, care for, spend time with).

What constitutes a friend to you? How many people would you name your "friends"?

A friend is a person you can count on in difficult times, the people who are happy when something good happens to you. People that you have accumulated experiences with, shared moments. People which you grow with, and that you can identify with. We think we have between 7 to 10 people we can call friends, good friends.

What did you find out about friendships of the people in Huntly during your investigation? What are the characteristics of friendships here?

People here in Huntly are very friendly and very nice when you meet them at home. They prepare some food and drinks and are happy to talk to you and spend time with you. But you definitely need to make an appointment beforehand, because they want to be prepared, prepare their house, prepare some food. They want to coordinate things - which is not a bad thing. In Cuba, you just come over for a chat - without paying attention to the available time of the friend you are visiting. People don't respect your private time so much there. It is different from friendship relationships in Huntly. So, maybe Dunbar's number is also a cultural characteristic.

Since a lot of people in Huntly are older they often don't use facebook to get in touch with people here in town. If they use facebook then it's just to stay in contact with people who left and are maybe living abroad. Younger people use facebook much more often. Nevertheless, they first get in touch with people face-to-face, namely at school.

In Huntly, people often meet their friends in the streets, on the square, for example at the farmer's market. They don't invite them always to their houses. They don't always visit each other, maybe as their home is their own private space.

Faceloop ends in an event bringing together your friendships findings. What are the plans?

The final event will be an open-house-event. It's almost like reversing what people have been doing with us here. They opened their houses to us, shared their time and space with us. We will use part of the facebook-structure: spaces in the house will have functions like an FB profile, there will be a wall with messages, a friends room, an events area and of course the "likes"-area. It's like trying to embody part of what we are so familiar with through electronic media. Through *faceloop* we want to show the whole process of the project, by creating an opportunity for people to connect face-to-face.

Interview by Annika Gödde

Further reading: *How many Friends Does one Person Need?* Robin Dunbar, Faber & Faber, 2010

STOP PRESS

Check out what has been going on this season at Deveron Arts

In Town

Town Collection

New piece: **Mbereko**

Photograph on aluminium from Nancy Mteki's Project exploring issues around motherhood, nurturing and materialism; now installed at the Kiddie Winkles Nursery, Gordon Street.



Opportunities

Volunteers / short-term Interns

Keep an eye on our website

FRIDAY LUNCHES

On Fridays our doors are open for lunch. Everybody welcome to meet us and our artists and hear what we are up to!

Upcoming Friday Lunch talks 1 - 2 pm

14 June: Paul Rous and Clea Wallis
Dudendance's Projects in Latin America

21 June: Emily Wyndham Gray
Working at Salem Art Works, NY

28 June: Debbie Haefner
Huntly's Exchange Project in Finland

5 July: Lena Perraki
Cancer research at the Uni of Edinburgh

12 July: Mary Bourne
Exploring the world through Stone

19 July: Ron Brander
Standing Stones and Stone Circles

26 July: Anne Murray
Arts residency in Naples, Italy

Limited numbers: book by Thursday!
£1.50 contribution.

Updated information on facebook!

People Talk

Hello & Good Bye

Apprentice

April 2013 - March 2014
Laura Johnston from Verona, Italy

Walking Project Intern

May - July 2013
Yannis Tsagkarakis from Crete, Greece

Shadow Curator Intern

April - May 2013
Annika G6dde from Bottrop, Germany



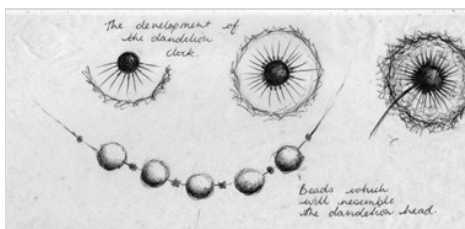
Dance Classes with Laura

Mondays, 7-8 pm
modern/contemporary for adult
beginners (16+)

Wednesdays, 6-7 pm
hip hop for adult beginners (16+)

Venue: Jessiman dance studio
corner of McVeagh and Old street.

Bookings:
laurajohnston.it@gmail.com, or
07528713740



North East Open Studios event Exhibition of works by Michaela Rae 7 to 15 September, Deveron Arts kitchen

Michaela won Deveron Arts' Creative Challenge
Cup in 2008 and studied Jewellery at
Glasgow School of Art

Visitors

Simone Kenyon, performance artist from London, came for a fact finding week in preparation for her Hielan' Way pathmaking project.

Kimberly Bradley, journalist from Berlin, came for the Fernweh-Symposium.

Pauline Burman, Director of Thami Mynyele Foundation, Amsterdam.

Dorian Fraser Moore, designer and technologist from Useful Arts, visited to discuss ways of how we can visually display our walking routes online.

Huntly Cultural Fund

A panel of seven decided on 30 local projects to receive a Huntly Cultural Fund Award, funded through our Creative Place award. Projects range from a World Stovie Championship through a new Tweed for the town to castle guided tours by children in our Old Folks homes.

For more info on all the creative winners check our website.



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Deveron Arts works with the context and identity of the town of Huntly in Aberdeenshire. Here, *the town is the venue*, research base, studio, gallery and stage for artists of all fields and from all over the world. Engaging local people and community in topics of both local + global concern, Deveron Arts works through a 50/50 motto, bringing together artistic and social relationships in a world wide network that extends throughout and beyond the geo-boundaries of Huntly.