

## Mentors

The eleven mentors available bring a broad range of skills to the programme:

### Craig Ashley



Craig is a curator and producer based in the West Midlands, and has recently taken up the post of director of New Art West Midlands. In his previous role as Visual Arts Producer at **mac birmingham**, Craig developed, implemented and oversaw delivery of the visual arts programme following completion of the arts centre's £15m redevelopment. Collaborating with curators from the region and beyond, Craig has commissioned and produced a number of exhibitions for **mac** including *Disrupted* (2015), a group exhibition curated by Noëmi Lakmaier and co-commissioned with DASH (Disability Arts Shropshire), exploring awkwardness and notions of disaffection and alienation in familiar civic spaces. As a curator, Craig works closely with artists on exhibitions, residencies and publications. Notable projects include Vered Lahav's *The Garden* (2013), pondering migration and the notion of homeland, and Qasim Riza Shaheen's *The last known pose* (2014), a retrospective featuring works exploring the gaze and the guise alongside new work co-commissioned with Cornerhouse in Manchester.

### Jaqueline Cooley



Jaqueline brings a diverse portfolio of skills and experiences working in the arts to Cultivate. Having trained as a glass artist, skilled in kiln forming and architectural techniques, she now works primarily as a public art and community practitioner, and has many years' experience in delivering successful site-specific projects. She can offer guidance with a wealth of organisational skills, including; project management, partnership

working, evaluation, promotion, marketing, funding applications, risk management, financial planning and budgetary control.

She has held three local authority Arts Development Officer posts across Staffordshire, where she managed touring exhibitions, classical music programmes, an outdoor sculpture trail and the development of a sensory garden.

Accessibility and inclusivity is an important part of Jaqueline's practice. She has worked with a wide range of groups and venues, both rural and urban-community based, such as schools, hospitals, mental health rehabilitation groups, centres for the visually impaired and parish councils, football clubs, leisure centres and nature reserves. In doing so she has supported a wide range of participants and partners of all ages and abilities, from under 5s groups to elderly patients, to local community groups and regional makers. She also has experience of employing and issuing contracts to freelance artists and advising on funding opportunities.

Jaqueline is currently working with the University of Wolverhampton as a visiting lecturer in Applied Arts. She has previously spent time there as a Research Fellow, where she was involved in developing the nationally important British Sign Language art and design glossary and web site: [www.artsigns.ac.uk](http://www.artsigns.ac.uk).

Jaqueline can advise on exhibiting in the UK and internationally. Her work is in significant public and private collections, and she has taught in both the USA and UK, and presented at international conferences. She has successfully sought funding for and co-organised exhibitions in the USA, Germany and Stourbridge.

Further information can be found on her website: [www.jaquelinecooley.com](http://www.jaquelinecooley.com)



## **Mandy Fowler**

Mandy is an experienced Independent Consultant and Curator, working with organisations and artists to develop, deliver and evaluate visual arts projects. She has developed the vision and models for visual arts projects for clients such as the Canal & River Trust, Historic England and internationally for the Library of Birmingham photography archive project Grain and has evaluated the impact of visual arts projects working with many national venues. Mandy is also a board member for the Welsh art gallery Oriel Davies.

She is currently working on curatorial projects with a number of artists including Tanya Raabe-Webber.

Mandy has an interest in artistic practice development and is an experienced mentor. Through mentoring Mandy has helped artists to develop their networks, consider opportunities available to them and look at their business models.

She has an academic background in contemporary art theory, museum studies and heritage and has a particular specialism in working with artists working with museum and heritage collections and contexts and within the public realm.

Mandy regularly works on a consultancy basis with DASH, assisting them to develop projects and evaluate their work.



## **Ben Fredericks**

Ben is an independent artist and producer. As a producer he specialises in developing emerging artists; helping them to develop projects, fundraise, exhibit their work, raise their profile, and develop strategies for building a sustainable career.

Ben worked for Shape Arts, a disability-led arts charity,

for over 9 years, leading top artist development programmes for disabled artists such as the Adam Reynolds Memorial Bursary and the Shape Open. He has worked on commissions and residencies with a wide range of artists, from sculptors to performance artists with a specialism in moving image. He developed the Ilham exhibition at the Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar in collaboration with the British Council where four UK based disabled artists were commissioned to produce new works for the exhibition he co-curated, which received over 10,000 visitors in the first week. He has also developed exhibitions, consulted on access and facilitated residencies for disabled artists for the likes of the Tate, Spike Island, and the Camden Art Centre.

As an artist his work is concerned with ethics and mainly uses moving image that is highly influenced by theatre. His new work explores interactive narrative through new Virtual Reality technologies.

Some of his work can be found on [www.benfredericks.co.uk](http://www.benfredericks.co.uk)

## Angela Martin



Angela Martin describes herself as an artist, creative tutor, mentor and manager. She is passionate about learning and creative practice. Her current practice is rooted in cartooning which she began in the 1980s, through a love of drawing and playing with ideas and words. She was simultaneously shy and opinionated, and found that cartoons enabled her to express her thoughts in a succinct and unexpected way. She is a published artist, having released two cartoon books through Women's Press, and her drawings have also been reproduced on ranges of retail products.

Angela has delivered workshops and courses alongside her freelance cartoon work. She has also lectured and

mentored students up to MA level. Her education work has developed into coordinating community arts projects and working with a variety of people young and old. As a creative mentor, Angela supports her mentees to make work and life transitions by listening and discussing what is important to them and their practice. The conversations are about ideas and aims, and practical steps to start to achieve these.

An interested, perceptive, and supportive mentor, Angela strives to enable artists to find ways to work amazingly, effectively and confidently.

## **Dean Melbourne**

Dean Melbourne is a Professional Artist who has built an growing international reputation for making dramatic and complex figurative paintings. Represented by gallery Coates and Scarry, Dean has shown in London, Hong Kong, Miami, New York.

Last year saw him stage his second solo exhibition "This Myth" at Gallery 8, Mayfair, London.

Dean has over 15 years of experience within the creative industry sector. After a varied career in formal arts education, lecturing at Stourbridge College, developing and delivering education programmes in Museums and Galleries and working in the private sector at consultancy Creative Shift.

As part of a team delivering business training to start-ups, high growth businesses and large arts organisations, Dean experienced a huge breadth of some of the best thinking in the sector. By combining creative thinking and learning process with business planning and strategy techniques. Dean offers a unique set of tools to help you move forward both creatively and in business.

## **Pam Newall**



Pam is an architect turned printmaker and a member of axisweb, bringing knowledge of self employment and printmaking. After working as an architect in design and property management in the public and private sector, she completed her MA in Fine Art Printmaking at Cambridge School of Art.

She currently works and exhibits as an artist/printmaker, and is a committee member of Shropshire Disability Network. She is interested in architecture and disability design issues.

In her current practice, images hold a record of some earlier activity, have a sense of absence and catch things at the margins. They are built up from drawings or photographic images, sometimes worked into and use etching, photoetch and photoscreen/silkscreen. She has exhibited in the UK and Europe, including Mall Galleries, London, Bund Bildender Kunstler, Leipzig, Germany, mac birmingham, Jonathon Ross's Gallery, London, and Oriel Wreccsam, Wrexham.

## **Adrian Plant**



Adrian brings a wealth of experience as a gallery manager/curator, and especially in integrating/commissioning contemporary artists' practices within an investigation/re-interpretation of historic museum collections and heritage contexts.

Adrian studied Art, Photography and Film at Bournemouth and Poole College of Art (1978-81). He then worked for various UK museums and galleries including the Cambridge Darkroom, the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford and the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich.

Adrian then worked for the Tate Gallery in Liverpool (1989-99) as Curator to develop projects supporting the gallery's exhibitions and commissions programmes, including managing artist's residencies such as working with Antony Gormley and a local community to create Field for the British Isles.

Adrian gained an MA in Contemporary Art History and Theory at the University of Liverpool (1995-1998).

In 2001 Adrian was appointed as the first Exhibitions Officer for Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery, Shropshire, where he developed an innovative curatorial policy to engage new audiences for contemporary art. Adrian worked with a wide range of international artists including Louise Short, Vladimir Arkhipov, Ivan and Heather Morison, Ken Feingold, Rosemary Butcher, myvillages.org, Paul Bush, Helen and Newton Harrison, Dorothy Cross, Marcus Coates, Shirley Chubb, Neil Brownsword, Iain Gardner, Ilana Halperin, David Haley, Brandon Ballangee and Thomson and Craighead.

## David Prytherch



David has been a freelance glass sculptor/engraver since the mid 1970's, and has exhibited internationally. His work has been bought by many private and public collections including Corning Museum of Glass, New York, The Victoria And Albert Museum, London, Crafts Council UK and Broadfield House Glass Museum.

In 1986, having just been elected chairman of British Artists in Glass he was knocked down by a car and disabled, preventing him from working full-time as a practitioner, and began to move his work towards consultancy, mentoring, project management and academic research relating to technology, disability and haptic perception for which he was awarded a PhD in 2003.

His work experience has been wide ranging and varied, and has included involvement with creating art work in a variety of media, both digital and material, solo and as part of a team, mentoring and advising other arts practitioners and SME's, teaching, managing and coordinating arts events, developing and coordinating research projects, seeking funding opportunities etc

He is an Honorary Research Fellow for Birmingham and Solihull NHS Foundation Trust and was recently appointed Course Director for BCU's MA in Arts, Wellbeing and Mindfulness.

## Tanya Raabe-Webber



Tanya is a practising Visual Artist, specialising in contemporary painting, devising artworks, running workshop and residencies with Deaf and Disabled people nationally and internationally, exploring and challenging the notions of identity, a disabled self in a disabling world.

In 2010 Tanya was the Winner of Ability Media International Award-Visual Arts and in 2008 she won the DaDa International Festival Visual Arts. But most recently, Tanya was shortlisted for [National Diversity Awards; LifeTime Achievement Award](#).

Tanya gained a BA (HONS) in Graphic Design at Leeds Polytechnic, an MA in Communication Design at Manchester Metropolitan University as well as a PGCE in FE-Special Education .

Tanya has exhibited as a solo artist and in many group exhibitions nationally.



## Jane Ralls



Jane Ralls is an independent arts manager with a specialism in dance, education and developing projects that increase access to the arts.

In December 2014, after 10+ years at DanceXchange, Jane left to pursue a portfolio career. Last year she wrote a position statement related to Birmingham Dance Hub and an Organisational Development Plan for integrated dance company FRONTLINEdance. She also co-founded AMP, the Independent Arts Managers and Producers network.

Jane currently has contracts as Arts Connect Associate (Artsmark) and Executive Producer for Anjali Dance Company, which celebrates the artistic potential of people with learning disabilities. In addition, Jane is an Action Learning facilitator, mentor and coach, working with numerous artists, managers and producers. She enjoys helping people achieve their goals.

Jane has experience in developing partnerships, generating income, strategic planning and nurturing artists. She has developed projects for unusual spaces, challenging perceptions of what art is and where it can happen.

## Anna Smith



Anna Smith is a sculptural and installation artist. Her current practice is underpinned by a correlative relationship between a research project into phenomenology and disability studies and her studio practice of material/process experimentation.

Anna recently graduated with Distinction, from her Master's Degree in Fine Art at University of Wolverhampton, for which she also won the Fine Art Prize.

In 2014 she was a winner of the New Art West Midlands and awarded a bursary for a follow on

exhibition at Grand Union Artspace, Birmingham and a six week residency at MAC, Birmingham, where she has recently shown work in the exhibition *Disrupted*.

Anna's recent work reflects and extends the phenomenological writings of Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time*, 1953, where she relates Heidegger's authentic experience to people's experience of disability as a social construct. Currently the artist is focusing on how a body of difference interacts and accesses space in a society that does not account for difference. Her work addresses this difference and allows the viewer to have an empathetic experience of a different physicality.

Anna says: 'I hope to share my experience of University through BA to MA and subsequently the transition to becoming a professional artist. I hope not only to share my knowledge of various sculptural techniques and methods, but also to support disabled students and help build their confidence and independence.'