

Meeting 4. Minutes BAAT Museums and Galleries Special Interest Group (MagSig)
Date: April 25th 2015. **Time:** 11am to 3.30pm, BAAT Office.

Speakers: Jane Landes and AT Student Elaine Homer (see agenda). Gave the background to the Ben Uri Gallery, London and talked through the Dementia project they have been running in partnership with the gallery.

Some points taken from the talk:

Jane talked about the importance of contacts / building relationships.

The learning coordinator Aime 'spoke the same language' (health and arts).

There was no space in the gallery so they found an external space at a local care home for people with Dementia.

Jane is part of the Ben Uri well-being team, consultant and supervisor.

Elaine is a trainee Art Therapist on placement.

Workshops / Sessions:

Elaine planned to work with people in the early stages of dementia however; they were further advanced than that.

Elaine got to know the gallery staff and researched the collection

Had 2x6 week workshops. In the first block they visited the Gallery exhibition.

The Centre had a good ethos, was supportive and helped set up therapeutic boundaries.

5 clients age 76-97. Elaine brought in images as a starting point. E.g. using images to help them explore their own creative identities.

Elaine talked with the curator to get the stories of the images and in the second block Elaine chose images relating to the group members interests.

Interest developed on the history of artists, what art is, reading and sharing information. Sharing of memories and the impact of dementia on their life.

Other benefits: giving art a status and being playful, introducing different materials to stimulate art making e.g. Model Magic.

Offering 'a sense of place and time' a starting point for exploring the past through gallery images and containment.

The care center staff and supervisor supported Elaine with the gallery giving a feeling of being held.

Ali Coles: Cultural Commissioning pilot project

See power point presentation already emailed to you (and agenda).

Ali has liaised with the gallery director and spoken to the gallery staff.

We used the art materials to respond to the objects, which Emma provided

Some other information / discussion / activities and updates:

There will be a conference in London next Easter (yet to be confirmed), it fits in with working outside of the clinical space. Discussed how Magsig can get involved.

One Art therapist talked about her work with cancer patients and their families where they visit a museum discuss objects, create artwork, using the museum as a reflective space. She has started compiling a thematic analysis to find out the different approaches Art Therapists are using in Museum and Galleries.

We discussed the possibility of trainee placements in museum and galleries and how this would need to be in conjunction with a health partner.