

Output: A solo exhibition 'Talking Brains' at Kings College Cambridge University, Arts Centre, Cambridge. 1st Feb – 16th Feb. 2018. Funded by CCM IOE small grants 2018.

'Talking Brains' was an exhibition of my own visual art work, with accompanying activities that inquired into visual arts practice as research (Sullivan 2005), the pedagogy of teaching art, trans-disciplinarity collaborations Foucault M (1972 [1969]), and their role in creating new forms of knowledge. 'Talking Brains' is a mixed media exhibition that explored and asked a number of questions including: what is the relationship between the brain, dyslexia, (dis)location and depression and art making? Do artist and scientists think differently? Where are the intersections between artist and scientists? Can the gallery be a site for learning? By bringing these ideas to the fore, 'Talking Brains' provided an opportunity to create a dialogue between artists, scientists and educators, allowing me to generate trans-disciplinary knowledge on the brain and produces different ways of seeing, and different modes of being.

Methodology: I use my art making, my research and my teaching to inform each other (Irwin and de Cosson, 2004a) and create a rich and meaningful relationship. I identify with the notion of 'research as bricoleur' (Denzin and Lincoln, 2003), mainly because I realise that my practice does not fit into one neatly bound paradigm; my form of inquiry is a Mosaic (Clark and Moss, 2001), a patchwork, or *bricolage* made up of many perspectives which frame and thus guide inquiry (Denzin and Lincoln, 2003). I also draw on the concept of Arts-based inquiry (Diamond and Mullen, 1999; Sullivan, 2005) throughout in order to theorize the aforementioned exhibition and my artistic and professional practice. Arts-based approaches allow me to collage together ideas as I create, transform, critique, promote shifts in thinking through intellectual, 'artful' inquiry (Diamond and Mullen, 1999).

My practice includes sculpture as well as film, objects, drawing, print and work with installations or in-situ contexts. The exhibition included the following pieces I made:

1. *Sculptures:*

'My Brain' life sized cold cast clear resin & aluminium

'Specimen' 9 x preserved ink drawings and glass vessels.

'The Black Dog' cast metal and ink drawing 210mm x 300mm x 250mm

'Lab coats' 3 x white cotton lab coats with transferred drawings & skull cap

'Framing' 6 x pairs of reading glasses & 1 x dyslexic ruler

2. *Film:*

'Brain Fly Through' 3 minute animation in iMovie projected 2m x 2m

3. *Drawings:*

'Lungs' Ink drawing 210mm x 300mm

'Gut' Ink drawing 210mm x 300mm

'Heart' Ink drawing 210mm x 300mm

'Brain structure drawings' 9 x Ink drawing 210mm x 300mm

4. *Photographs:*

'Dialogue: Artist & Scientist' series of colour digital photographs 7 x 210mm x 300mm

'Inside my head: MRI scan' digital b/w photographs 3 x 161mm x 161mm

'Homage' digital colour photograph 2 x 210mm x 300mm

'Archetype' digital colour photograph 6 x 210mm x 300mm

'Left' & 'Right' 2 x digital colour photograph 594mm x 420mm

Dissemination activities:

Drawing workshop – 16 participants from Kings College (academics, students & fellows) engaging in practical exercises including life drawing and discussions around the exhibition & contemporary art practice;

Salon evening, a 2 hour discussion with artists, scientists & educators in the gallery space – 31 participants;

A Private View evening in the gallery space – 25 attendees.

(visitor numbers to the exhibition over the 16 days totals 402)

Other dissemination outputs:

- I wrote & published article about the show (2000 words) 'Talking Brains: conversations between artists, scientists and educators' in *AD magazine* NSEAD Autumn 2018, Issue 23. ISSN 2046-3138 NSEAD publications. (<http://www.nsead.org/publications/book.aspx?id=230>)

This is the Art & Design educators professional body for the UK.

- conference paper, 'The unfamiliar grey matter(s)' *Interventions*, InSEA European region, Aalto University, Finland, June 2018.

- group show 'Dark Days White Nights' – beta Space gallery, Helsinki, Finland June 2018 (<https://www.1andyash.com/beta>)

- submitted paper 'The unfamiliar grey matter(s)' to *Synnytt/Origins*: Finnish Studies in Art Education journal, Oct 2018. This is an international art education journal

- abstract 'Intersections: artist, educator and scientist' submitted to 'Making' InSEA International conference UBC Vancouver, Oct 2018

- abstract 'Intersections: artist, researcher & teacher (art)' submitted to ITE IOE conference, What research questions are you asking in ITE? Oct 2018

- IOE marketing and communications dept reviewed 'Hole in my soul' exhibition and published a piece on the IOE website

- social media outputs, twitter & Instagram, & several blogs on my website (www.1andyash.com)

The exhibition was funded by CCM small grants award 2018.