
Randall’s practice-based research investigates alternative ways of interpreting industrial heritage to audiences. Randall’s methodology explores the ways in which contemporary fine art can be a catalyst for regeneration and reappraisal of industrial legacy and heritage, provoking memory and bringing new knowledge and understanding to world heritage mining sites. This exhibition was the culmination of a 6-year research project, and is now being extended on a global scale to world heritage sites of Cornish mining diaspora in Australia and Mexico. Against the backdrop of the World Heritage site of Geevor Tin Mine, the exhibition drew strong connections between the environment of the working mine and its aftermath landscapes, offering a different way of interpreting these sites, their history, unique ecology, and alternative beauty. The exhibition comprised 42 works, promoted fine art practice within a museum environment and attracted 30,000 visitors to the exhibition over 8 months. Randall devised an innovative programme of creative public engagement events, including tours, talks, participatory workshops and focus groups to embed the research and measure impact and feedback with over 300 participants. Crucial to the impact of the exhibition was the interdisciplinary collaboration between Randall and sociologist Dr Gaynor Bagnall, Directorate of Sociology, Criminology & Social Policy at the University of Salford, who used investigative sociological methods to collect and measure audience impact data. There have been several more significant outputs resulting from this exhibition - the book chapter “Understanding the audience experience of contemporary visual arts at Geevor Mine World Heritage Site: A Dialogue between a Contemporary Artist and a Sociologist“ for the book “Intersecting Practices: Contemporary Art in Heritage Spaces”, (Routledge 2019), and a conference paper and publication at the ‘Contemporary Art in the Heritage Experience Conference’ at Newcastle University July 2019. This output is also the subject of an REF Impact Case Study.

References to the research:

https://research.ncl.ac.uk/mcahe/conference/
http://jillrandall.co.uk/exhibitions/another-eden/
http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/42238/
http://jillrandall.co.uk/blog/2016/12/05/aftermath-exhibition-to-end-oct-23rd-2016/