# Alice Thwaite Director – Development Equal Arts



### Where are we based?



## short history of Equal Arts

- Work in partnership with care homes, arts venues, Carer's organisations, community groups, sheltered accommodation schemes – working with those with the least access.
- Contract professional artists to deliver projects
- Runs an Activity Co-ordinators Network and Arts & Dementia Network (see <a href="www.equalarts.org.uk">www.equalarts.org.uk</a>)
- Currently work in 52 care homes and working with 7 arts venues in the North East

## Creative Age programme



# Models of art interventions with older people

 Community Health model – engaging those at risk of social exclusion

 Co-producing – working with older people to create their own projects



## Art on prescription

- The aim of project was to enhance health and well being of older people particularly those with depression and dementia and their carers
- Reduce the risk of social exclusion
- For people not involved in other day services
- Referred by GPs, OTs, Community matrons

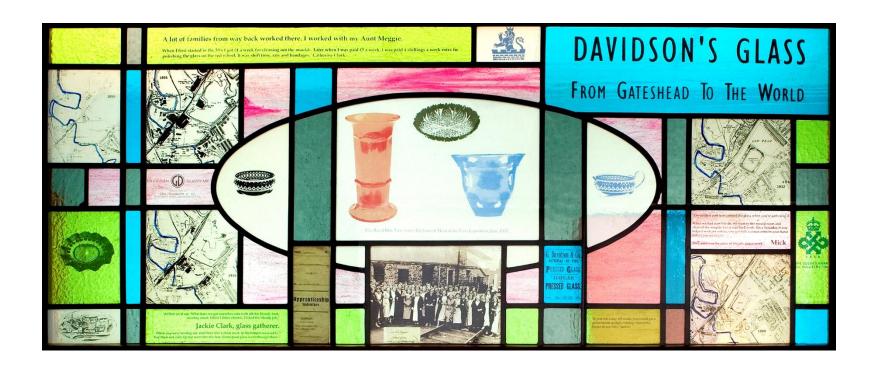


# Bringing people together



# designing

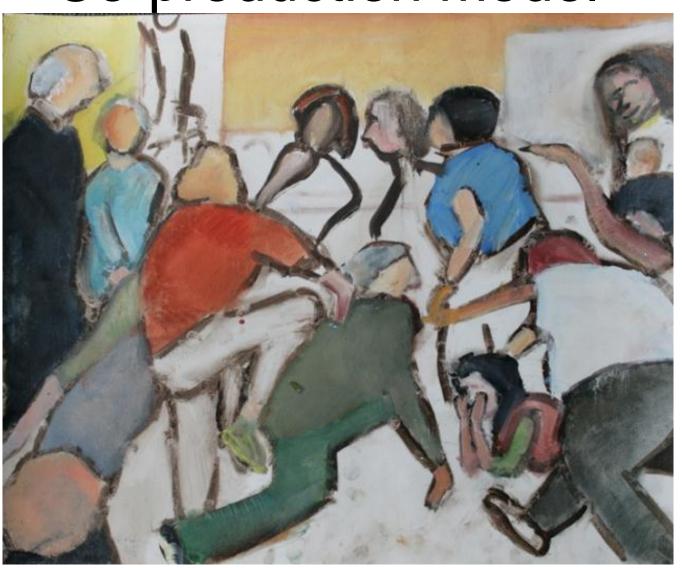




### "there's something for everyone"

- Key strength of the programme was the range of workshop options and the flexibility of the design.
- Good support transport and support worker
- An opportunity to "try something different"
- Choice "I like the idea of making films but oh, dancing is not for me"
- Pop up museum creating their own museum about Gateshead. Mixture of the familiar and new.

Co-production model



# Creativity Matters Reaching Communities project

- Involving "active" older volunteers in developing their own interests in the arts (predominantly dance and music, but visual arts is developing through their interests) – working with professionals.
- Work in care homes to change the culture of the care sector to better support older people's creative and emotional wellbeing.

# dancing through the fog

"I, at times, have to fight with depression. I come to classes sometimes feeling low as it were. But I laugh, I laugh at myself, I laugh with others, I let go of my "fog" and become happy. I lose myself in it all"





#### Maya Angelou

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"



## www.equalarts.org.uk

