shave

International Artists Workshop 5th - 20th August 1995

artists

Anna Best - England / Netherlands Sylvaine Chassay - Quebec Alexandra Dementieva - Belgium Ajav Desai - India Mary Evans - England Ella Gibbs - England David Lillington - England Annie Lovejoy - England Koka Ramishvili - Republic of Georgia Luis Romero - Venezuela Margot Schmitt - Germany Louise Short - England Susannah Silver - Scotland Gary Spearin - Canada Tomoko Takahashi - England Reggy Timmermans - Belgium

visiting artists

critic

Anthea Nicholson - England Jian Jun xi - England Yinka Shonibare - England Sarah Kent - England

This is the fifth year of Shave International Artists Workshop

This is an 'open studios' not an exhibition. While at Shave the artists are working for themselves, and for each other, not only for public exhibition...Shave is both a continuation of and a retreat from their everyday working lives as artists. Consequently they often tend to be as experimental as possible, to try out ideas which have been in their minds for some time or projects not possible in normal practice.

What you are getting then is a look at the thinking processes of contemporary artists. The artists respond to the farm itself, its size, its features, to the fact of being with a group of other artists, and to the time allotted to them, two weeks. This year, there are thirteen artists (chosen from a submission of over 60), two organisers (Anna Best and Ella Gibbs), who are also artists and making work here, a writer who is also making art and an artist who is making a video record. Plus owners of the farm Rowena and Quentin Seddon and a support team of five technicians and cooks – some of whom are also artists and making art.

Partly because of the nature of the place the artists chosen for Shave this year tend to be in the tradition of installation art, time-based and process art – art which is not so much about making an object you walk around, but about experiencing the space the art is in, and connected ephemeral, psychological, social or natural aspects of that space/time based art and process art. This tradition is now at least 30 years old and arguably much older. This type of art, sometimes loosely labelled 'conceptual art' in the press (when the press deigns to take any notice) makes use of or allies itself with 'non- art' media. This year, for example, more artists have been using video in their work than in previous years. Performance is also an aspect of art practice at Shave.

There are also many slide showings, organised discussions (with the added stimulus of visiting critics and artists), video viewings, and so on. The level of discussion this year has been very high, even given the difficulties of those artists for whom English is not a first language – this year artists come from countries as far apart as Venezuela and Georgia (former USSR), India and Canada. Shave Artists Workshop was started by Rowena Seddon and Anna Best in 1991. All the artists would like to say a very big thank you to their hosts Rowena and Quentin, the two technicians Andy Monks and Tim Millar and to the rest of the support team: for all their support, inspiration and forbearance. And (very important) the exceptionally good organic food.

Handout text for the open day. 19th August 1995. Written by David Lillington

s chosen fo ss art - art v ulpture, but psychologic s art. This t type of art, the press of art' media. eir work.tha ctice at Sha Anna Best

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EZDER FLOWER CORDIAL.

TO MAKE 5 PINTS 3 OUNZES CITRIC ACLO 3 PINTS BOILING WATER 3 Ibs SUGAR 1 CAMDEN TABLET (TO PRESERVE) TO I GALLON CONCENTRATE 25 HEADS FULL BLOWN ELDERFLE POUR BOILING WATER OUTER DRY INGREDIENTS SFLORETS STIR FOR 4-5 DAYS, STRAIN AND BOTTLE WITH CRUSHED CAMDEN TABLET. IN BOTTLE

