

SHAVE  
ARTISTS'  
WORKSHOP

ANNA BEST



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## SHAVE ARTISTS' WORKSHOP

When Anna, in last year's catalogue, said 'Shave was like a storm', it must have been a premonition. Last year the weather was mediterranean, this year the monsoon. Despite that, the workshop was a resounding success. Seventeen artists selected from an open submission worked together for two weeks, free from chores and with all meals provided. The work was



wide-ranging, in many different media and covering many points of view – with an equally broad selection of visiting artists. This diversity was healthy. It encouraged artists to examine their most deeply-held beliefs, take risks, trust their own abilities and demand more of themselves.

They came from round the world – Zambia, Singapore, USA, Canada and Portugal – to join with the British who also represented a wide national spread. But, despite different cultures, backgrounds, and notions of what painting or sculpture might be, it took little time to enter into discussions about their work;



and as the weather got worse, the energy and spirit grew. Perhaps we were brought together in adversity, and frustration with the mud and wet outside channelled into the work – in some cases quite literally. The farmhouse provided a wonderful haven after a long day in the studio, and the combination of idyllic surroundings, good work space, acute criticism, informal exchange, encouragement and pressure, all contributed to the energy and harmony. This unique, intense two weeks, half-inspired, half carefully-planned, created better understanding and made for better art. *David Gittings*





ANNA BEST  
England  
sculptor, London

This work felt like an *objet trouvé* – I was astonished by its sudden presence. Possibly I too hurriedly amalgamated several discoveries into a single thing? But, the workshop is certainly a paradox on every level.

Anna Best, *Cellar*  
mixed media, 24" x 90" x 240"



