

Lorraine Leeson

reflections on an art and politics of social engagement
1978 – 2014



PUBLIC SUPPORT

Mass support is crucial if the campaign is to succeed

The support of established organisations and activists is necessary but it is ultimately organised mass support which can wield most power

26th of November ('77) - the first large public meeting at York Hall attended by nearly 700 people. Speakers from the campaign committee were augmented by representatives from numerous organisations, local and national, and a great portion of the meeting was devoted to speakers from the floor.

28th of January - a street demonstration marched from Bethnal Green to the London Hospital, Whitechapel - location of the District Management Team. This was followed by a lobby of the Area Health Authority in Marsh's second march was cancelled due to the Metropolitan Police ban. Meanwhile impetus has been maintained by: small meetings, leafleting, badges, car stickers, posters, a film, performances, social events.

The support of the local press is very important as it is extending information from the campaign - its position to the national press and media. The authorities are less able under the scrutiny of national media - it may not deter them but it does exert additional pressure.

It is important that evidence of the campaign is visible at the hospital to visitors & passers by.

NO HOSPITAL CLOSURES. STOP THE CUTS.

HANDS OFF BETHNAL GREEN HOSPITAL

BETHNAL GREEN AND STENEY TRADES COUNCIL

HACKNEY AND STENEY COUNCIL

EUROPE

TO MAN THE WORLD OUR SHALL BROTHERS BE FOR A TRY

SOVIET WORKERS

Campaign to Save Bethnal Green Hospital 1978



BERMONDSEY
FOR
BERMONDSEY
PEOPLE



Docklands Community Poster Project 1981-91



The people of Docklands have always had to fight to make the best of appalling conditions – and to change them.



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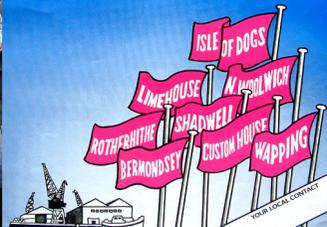
Docklands Community Poster Project

- history of housing photo-mural sequence

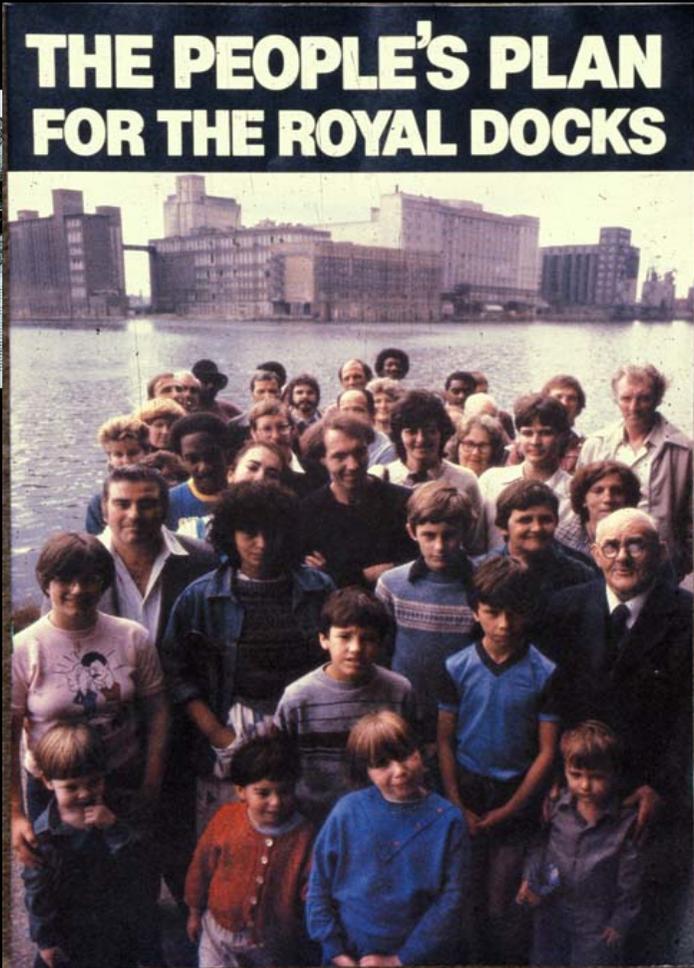
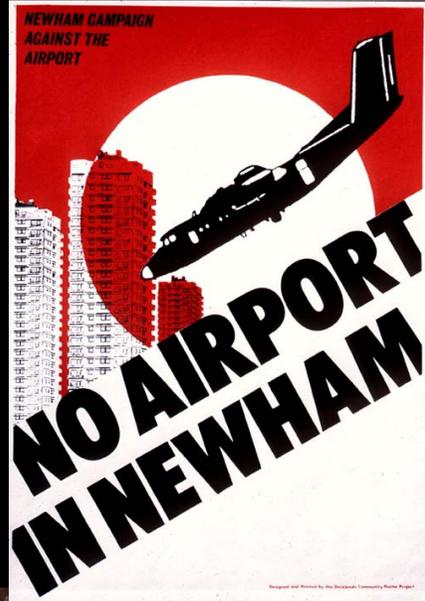


Hands off
our
Docklands

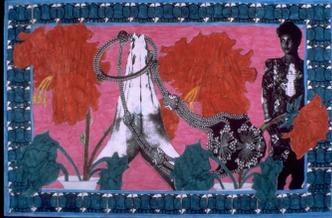
join the people's armada
to parliament
tues 17 April



Docklands Community Poster Project
People's Armadas to Parliament 1984-86



Docklands Community Poster Project
Peoples Plan for the Royal Docks 1983



West Meets East 1992



Awakenings 1995-6
after *Resurrection* by Stanley Spencer

We were Children of Mary at school a female organisation for women. You had to do an amount of prayer and put in extra hours in contact with God and the Virgin Mary. There was a big statue of the Virgin Mary at the end of the study which would have a white veil on it and the older we got, the more we moved down the study on the assumption that we would behave ourselves and I used to polish my shoes in the veil as an act of revolt!

I think that Celtic people are naturally effervescent with a positive attitude to life. Irish people were like that before the famine of the 1840's. After the famine the heavy hand of Catholicism crept into Ireland. If a naturally indigenous culture had been allowed to develop, a much more natural



evolution of a culture into the 20th Century would have occurred.

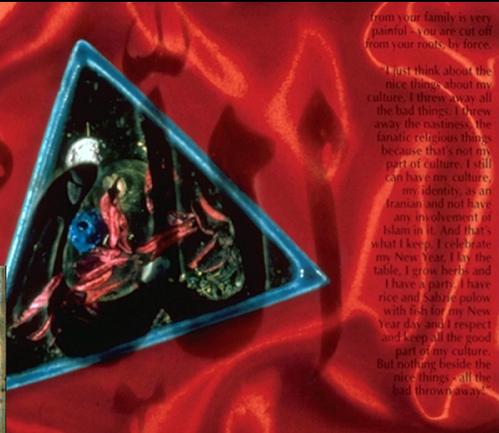
Some of the times women will ask you to have a mass said for the dearly departed. The worst experience I had was the first, she said "Would you have a mass said for my dead foetus?" And I said "alright, but I'll have to find out where the local Church is and find a Priest." She was horrified because she didn't realise that people like me are so distant from religion. The whole point about religion whether it's orthodox or fundamentalist is that it's about rules and it's not about choice. You can't choose which rules you keep and don't keep and when to keep them. It's the opposite of autonomy - it's not having the freedom to choose and

If you are a girl you can't travel and you want to go somewhere, still you have to get permission from your brother or father because as a woman you're not really a proper person. And you feel "well I am intelligent, I can do this and that then why should I be less than my brother?"

My sister was in prison in Iran because she was a political prisoner and I didn't know really.

quite a long time before I got upset about not being able to buy Chanukah candles anywhere. But there were always tunes going round in my head that I'd been brought up with that I wasn't hearing anymore and I wasn't going to hear them anywhere because they were quite particular to my own Sephardi background.

I remembered one time really well and then a few years ago I realised that I could actually work it out and play it which I'd never done before. So I did - then I realised that I could do more than that. I could transcribe it and then we could all play it in the band and perform it and that was wonderful because it was like something back to life which I'd thought I'd lost for good.

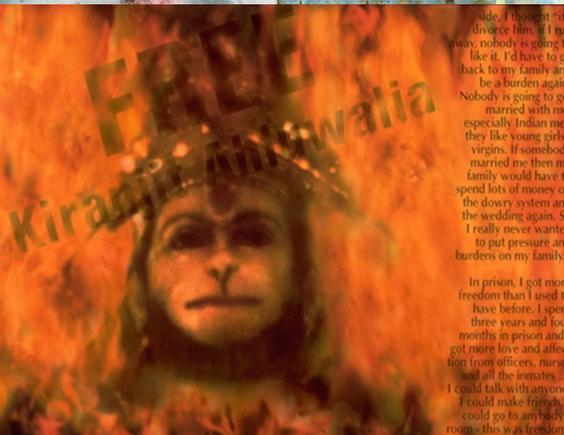


from your family is very painful - you are cut off from your roots - by force.

I just think about the nice things about my culture. I threw away all the bad things. I threw away the racism, the fanatic religious things because that's not my part of culture. I still can have my culture, my identity, as an Iranian and not have any involvement of Islam in it. And that's what I keep. I celebrate my New Year, Lay the table, I grow herbs and I have a party. I have rice and Sabzi plov with fish for my New Year day and I respect and keep all the good part of my culture. But nothing beside the nice things - all the bad thrown away.

My husband got angry when women got monthly periods. There is a Hindu God, Hanuman who came into his mind and he lost his temper only on women. I believed that my husband's God was totally different from Hanuman. And I told my husband "I don't believe it. Hanuman never got married because he respected women as a daughter, sister and mother." He frightened me that if when I have my period I go and cook anything, his mother is going to get very angry. So there were four or five days when I was shaking.

Indian girls are taught by their families that you must respect your husband because he is God and you must fulfil his wishes and please him that is your duty. Women have to do all the sacrifices. On my



side, I thought "I'd divorce him, if I run away, nobody is going to like it. I'd have to go back to my family and be a burden again. Nobody is going to get married with me, especially Indian men they like young girls - virgins. If somebody married me then my family would have to spend lots of money on the dowry system and the wedding again. So I really never wanted to put pressure and burdens on my family."

In prison, I got more freedom than I used to have before. I spent three years and four months in prison and I got more love and affection from officers, nurses and all the inmates. I could talk with anyone. I could make friends. I could go to any body's room - this was freedom!

I was very artistic from the day I understood myself. My family didn't know how to cope with that and were suffering. They decided to get rid of me at the age of seventeen and a half when I came here. I say "get rid of me" but they found my husband here for me and I came to marry him.

I had to wear what they wanted me to wear, I had to cook what they wanted me to cook, I had to eat what they wanted me to eat, I had to talk to people the way they wanted me to talk. I always had to be somebody else - I could never be myself.

When I came here I used to write my poetry, just as a hobby, and used to sing while I am working or outside. I had to put a complete stop on all that. My mum said to me



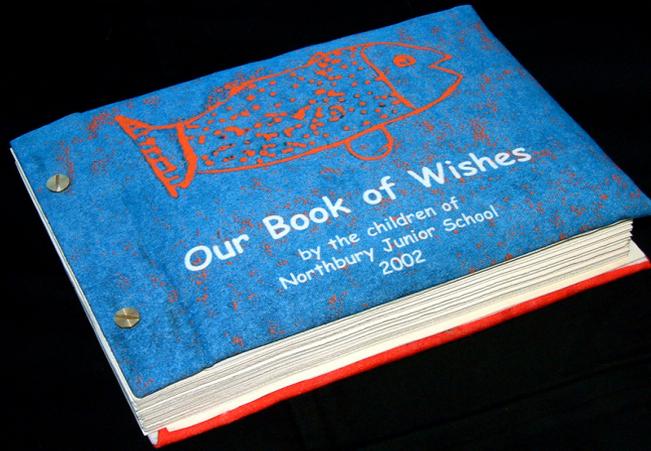
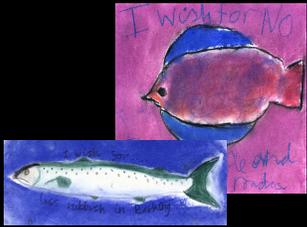
Because your husband is like a God."

He would want me to sing in front of people and say "Come on, come on sing!" When I'd just come home from the hospital with my child, he'd wake me up at two o'clock and say "You will have to sing, you will have to!" And then he would use that against me.

She didn't want me to divorce him, because she was scared of what society, people would say. I said, "I won't say I made a mistake, because I did not. You chose a bad, stupid man for me."



Between Family Lines 1994



The Catch 2002

History of VOLCO
 Guide to VOLCO
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VOLCO is a virtual
 OpenWorld
 environment and
 has many
 features.
 Children and young
 people can be
 part of the creation
 of a virtual
 world, and
 interact with
 other people
 in the
 environment and
 in the
 virtual world.



map

X 23 Y 20

Settlements
 Latest flies at top

- Volcano
- Mountain of Prosperity
- Haven City
- Peak Plant Land
- Haven
- Mountain
- Haven Republic City
- Haven Valley

Elders
 • Elder Village Training Camp
 • Elder Teaching Base

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living

Dome Home

Dome Homes are where the Forest Gate Volcano live. Homes vary in colour, surface & size. From top to bottom these "Dome Homes" are a unique design. Long poles give superb internet access, handy when you live on a virtual planet!

Created: The Archivist
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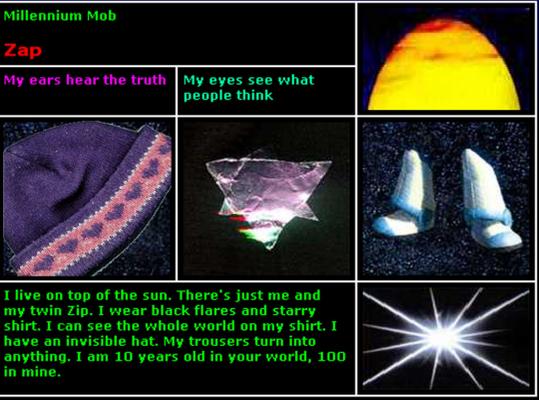
map

Millennium Mob

Zap

My ears hear the truth

My eyes see what people think



I live on top of the sun. There's just me and my twin Zip. I wear black flares and starry shirt. I can see the whole world on my shirt. I have an invisible hat. My trousers turn into anything. I am 10 years old in your world, 100 in mine.

Change Page

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enters Volcan atmosphere ... grey cloud drink inc

VOLCO 1999 to 2009
www.volco.org

YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE 2

EAST LONDON











FATBOY'S

DINER

for a mighty fine dine









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Sites - Music and Video Exchange

The music and exchange shop is a great way for you to purchase or exchange unwanted old CD's, video tapes, DVD's, records of any kind of genre, any style, suitable for anyone! The prices are very low too, with true bargains. It has a great atmosphere of good old tracks!

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Address 23 Greenwich Church Street,
Greenwich, London
SE10 9BJ
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Directions DLR: Deptford Bridge (1.1 km),
Island Gardens(1.5 km)
Overground: Maze Hill (0.9 km),
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Phone 020 8858 8898

Website www.mveshops.co.uk



Related Themes

-  [Music](#)
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Sites - Greenwich Park

Greenwich Park is a place to relax with friends, family, girlfriend/boyfriend, even on your own. There are great views and cafes all around. It's a good place to have fun and meet new people.



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Sites - Asta Centre

The centre has a youth club, ICT room, hanging out area, studio and we do sport over the cage and after school. We have fun and it builds your confidence.

Borough [Newham](#)

Address 14a Camel Road
E16 2DD
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Phone 020 7476 5023



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Plaistow Park At Night | Newham |

http://www.ypg2el.co.uk/boroughs/newham/site180/plaistow-pi

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Sites - Plaistow Park At Night

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Borough Newham

Address Greengate Street, Plaistow, London E13 OAS
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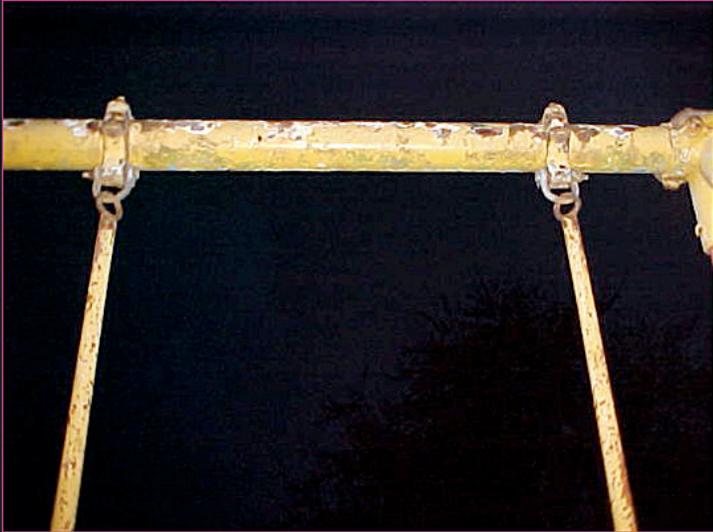
Directions Buses: 5, 15, 15b, 147, 241, 262, 276, 325, 330, 473 (262 is the closest bus). Tube: Plaistow (half a mile)

Website <http://www.newham.gov.uk>

Related Themes

-  Community
-  It's Fun
-  Transport
-  Sport

The park at night is very different to daytime. It gets locked after 7pm but people still jump over the fences/gates, then use it for smoking purposes. It also has a multi-use games area, play area and a paddling pool.



Sites - City Mill River

Down Blake Road, you will find City Mill River. This is a peaceful place with ducks and greenery. If you follow the river along, you will meet a spectacular sight of the Olympic Stadium in the distance. This is a quiet place for self contemplation, or a lovely place for a group picnic.



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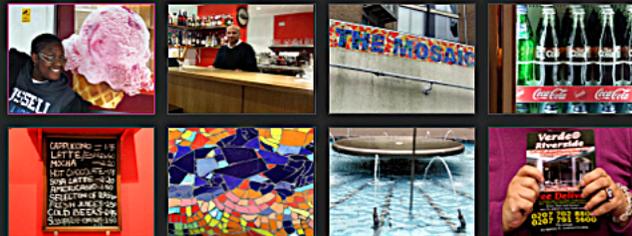
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Sites - Café Verde @ Riverside

You should try the Verde café for its fresh food and authentic Italian menu. In addition to the food, the café is set in nice surroundings and is a good place to hang out. In summer especially it's nice to sit with an ice cream and watch the fountain.



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Borough Tower Hamlets
Address The Mosiac
45 Narrow Street
Limehouse
London
E14 8DN
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Directions Buses: 115, 135, 15, D3, N15,
N550, N551 DLR: Limehouse
Phone 0207 702 8803/ 0207 791 5600

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YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE 2 EAST LONDON



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Welcome to East London



This guide has been created by local teenagers to introduce you to some of the best places to go, see or just hang out...

Search by Borough:



Search by theme:

Arts and Culture	Communications	Community	Eating
History	Music	It's Fun	Transport
Let's Shop	Sport	Great Views	Hanging Out
Olympic Park			



THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO EAST LONDON

East London places they don't put in travel guides!



Café Verde @ Riverside > The Mosaic, 45 Narrow Street, Limehouse, London E14 8DN > Fresh food, authentic Italian menu, nice surroundings – a good place to hang out, sit with an ice cream and watch the fountain. For the full review and travel information go to [page 5](#).

Discover great places to visit in East London reviewed by the teenagers who live there. In this guide you'll find reviews, travel information and photos of over 200 places to visit, all within the five London 2012 Olympic boroughs.

WWW.YPG2EL.ORG



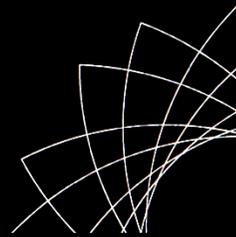
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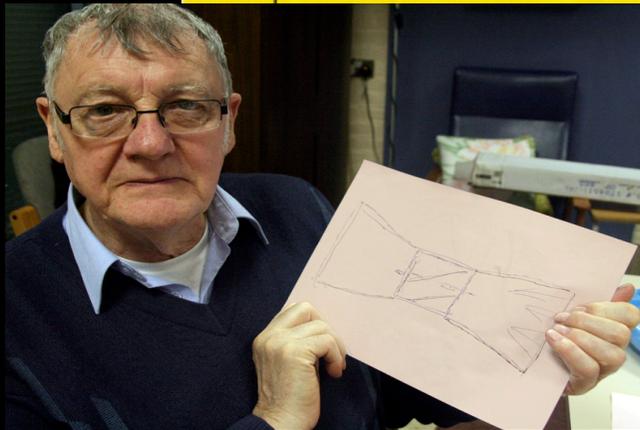
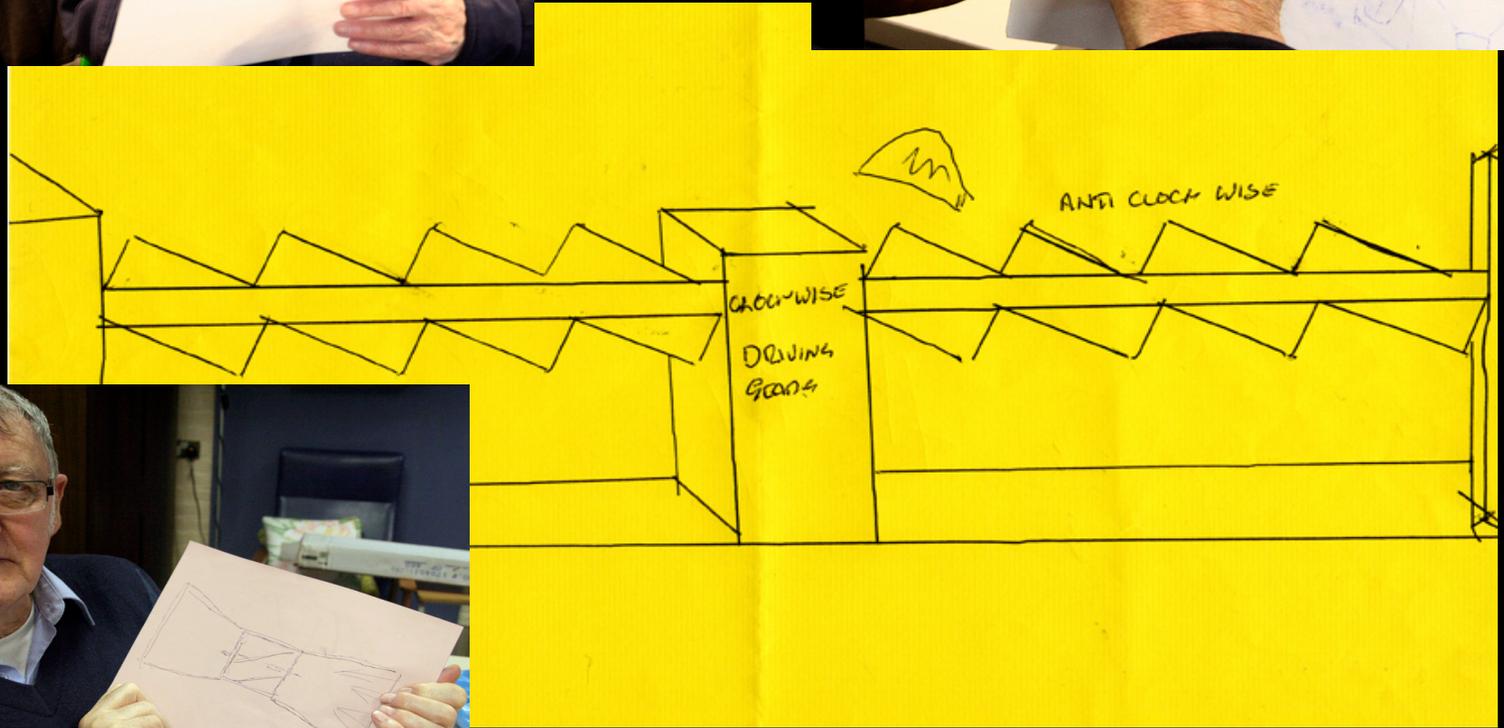
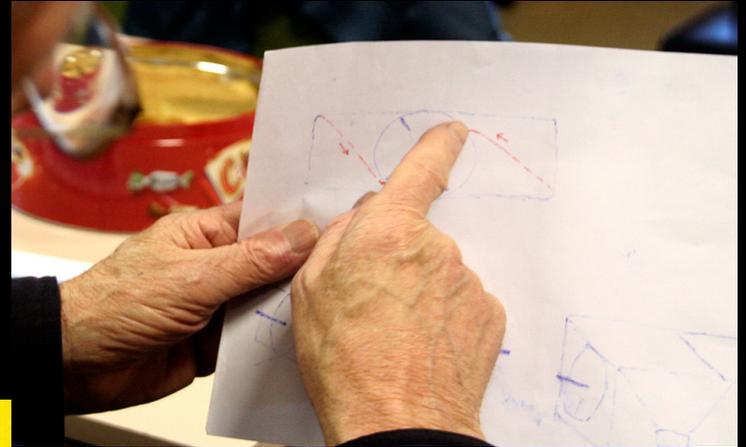
Where art and engineering meet



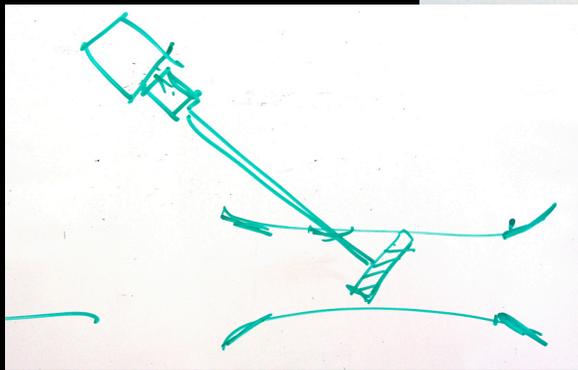
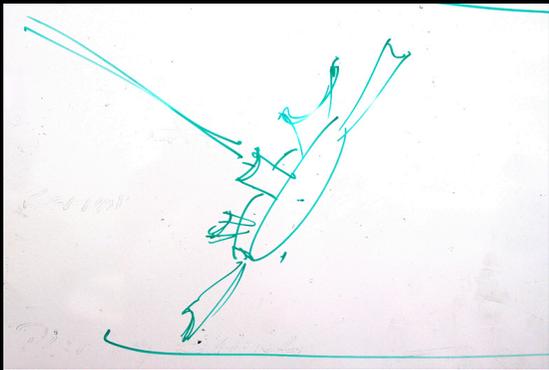
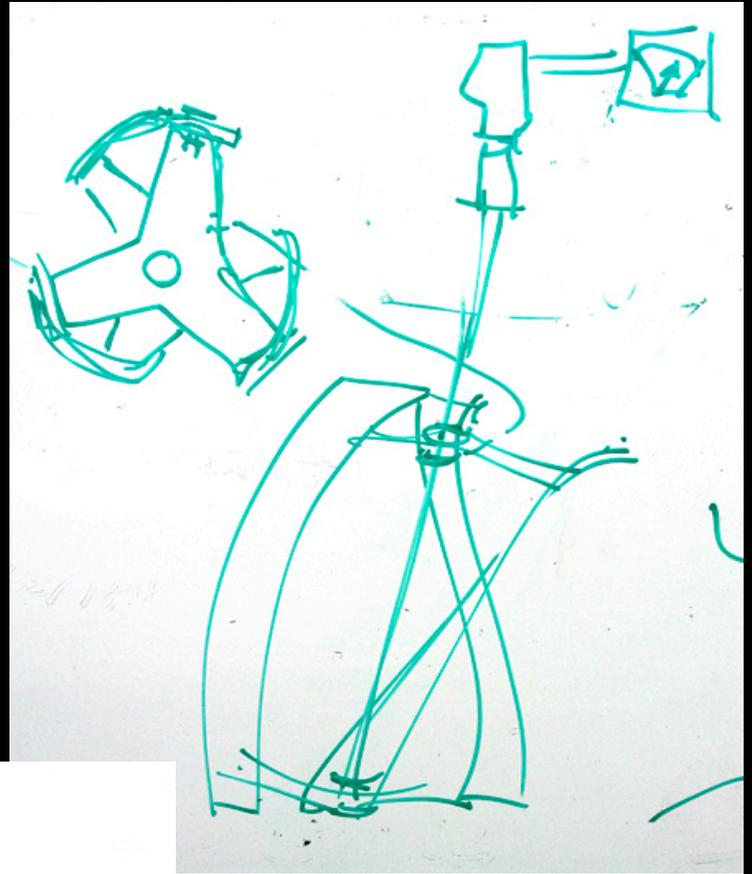
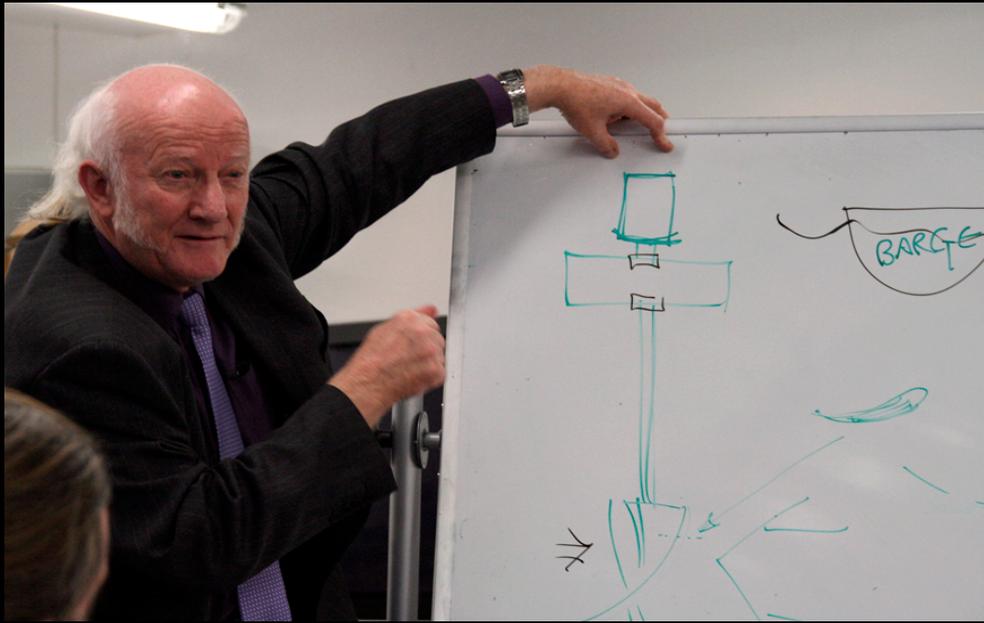


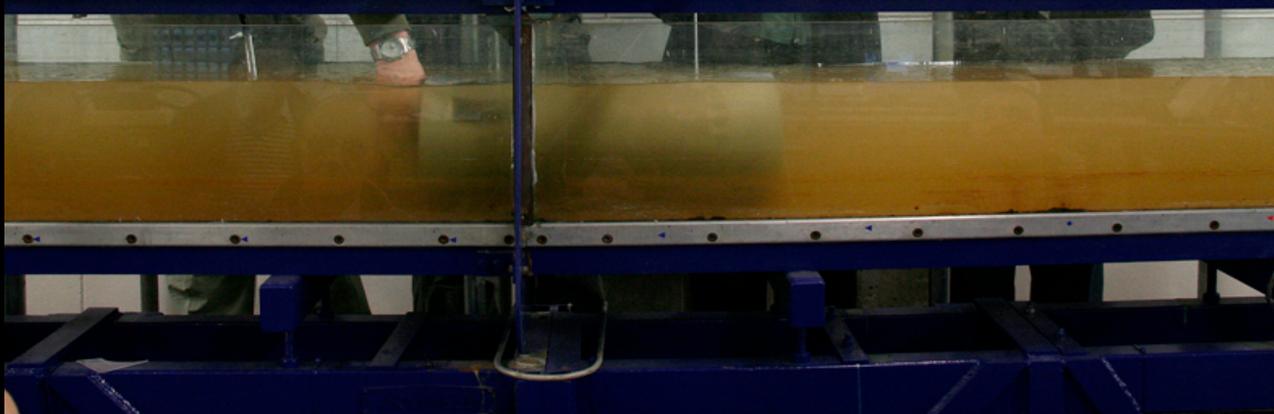
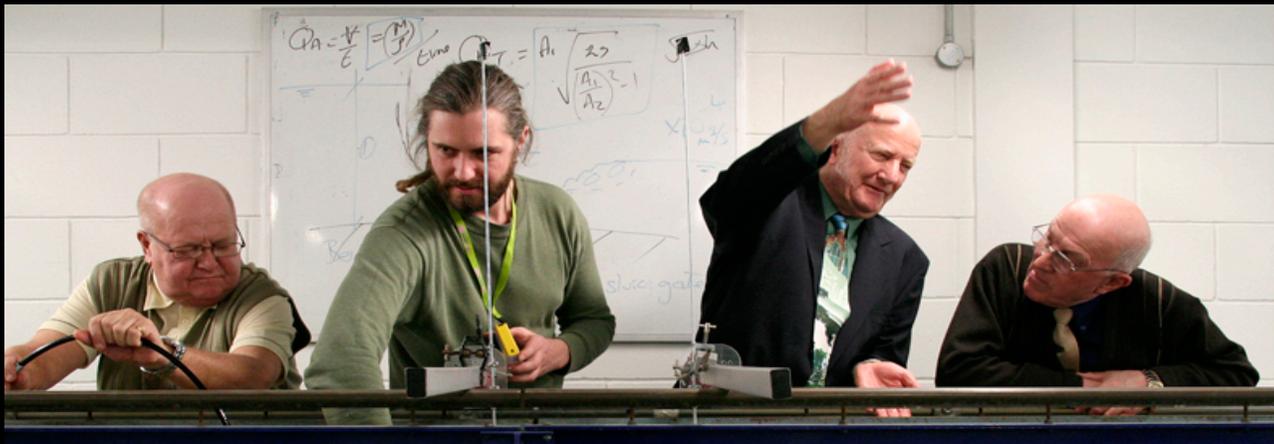
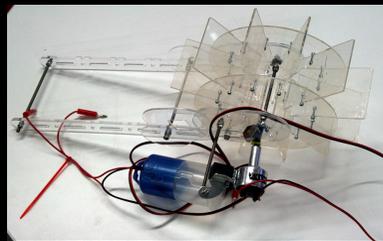


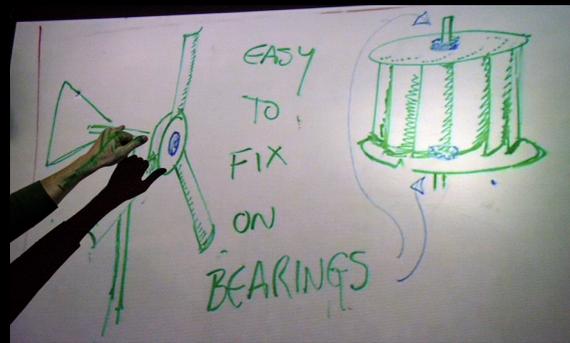
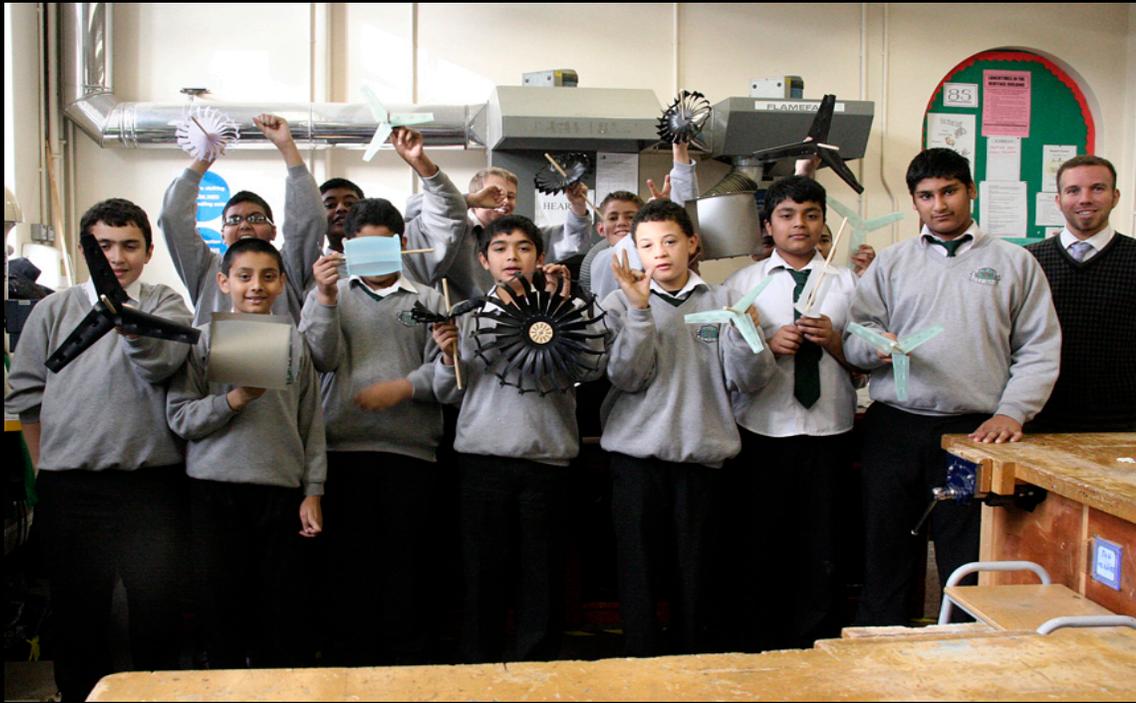


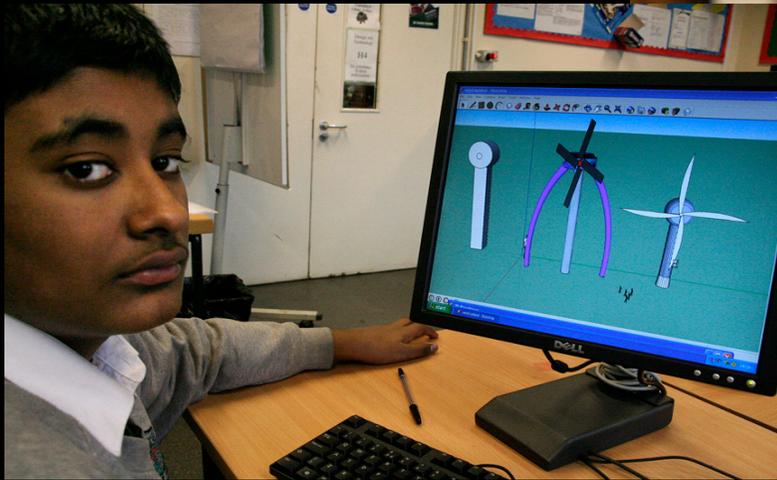
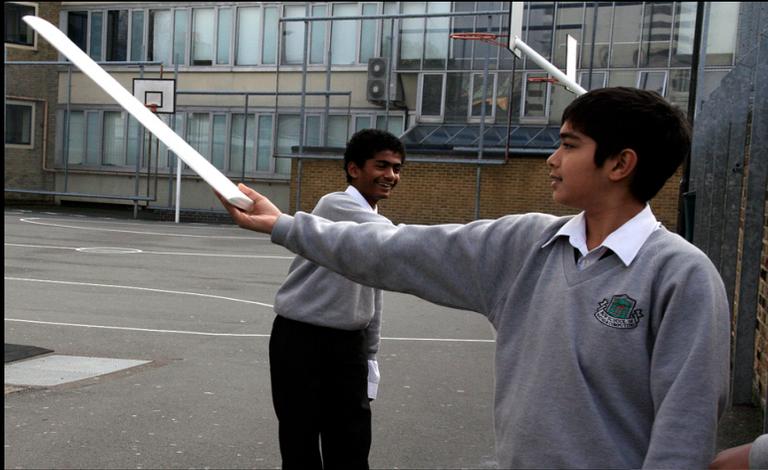


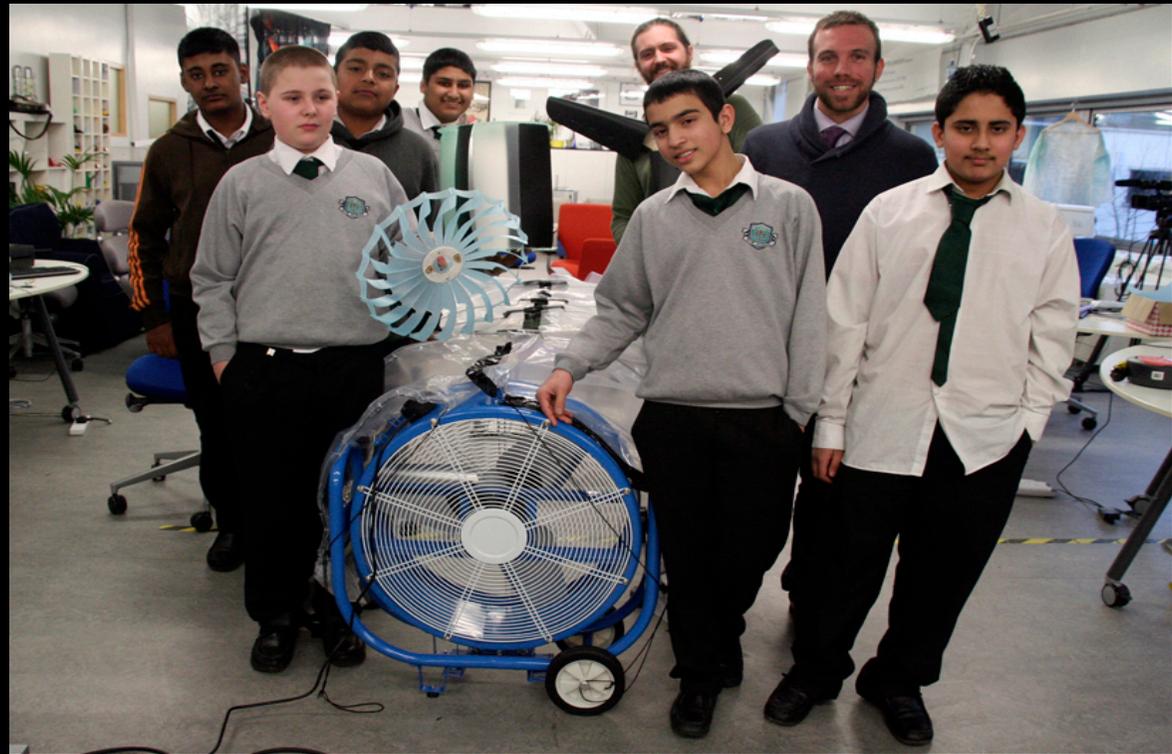
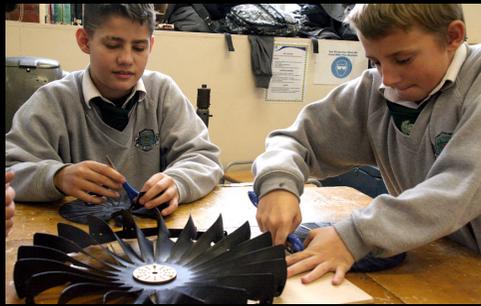


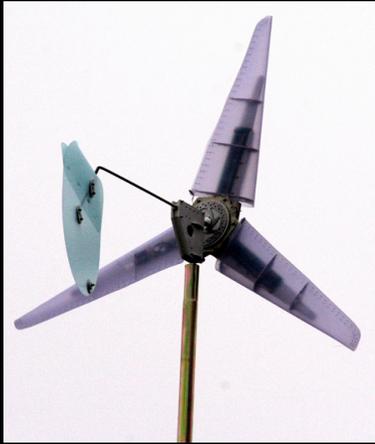












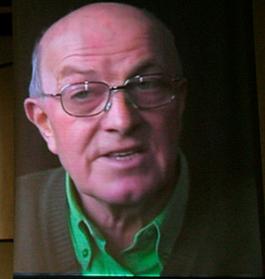
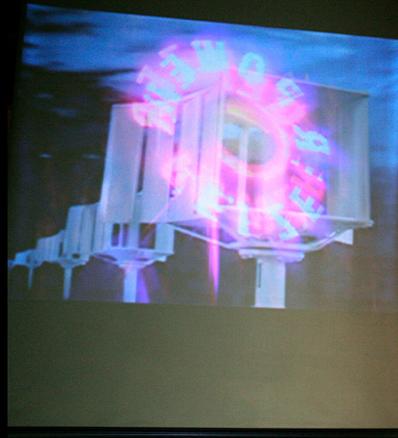
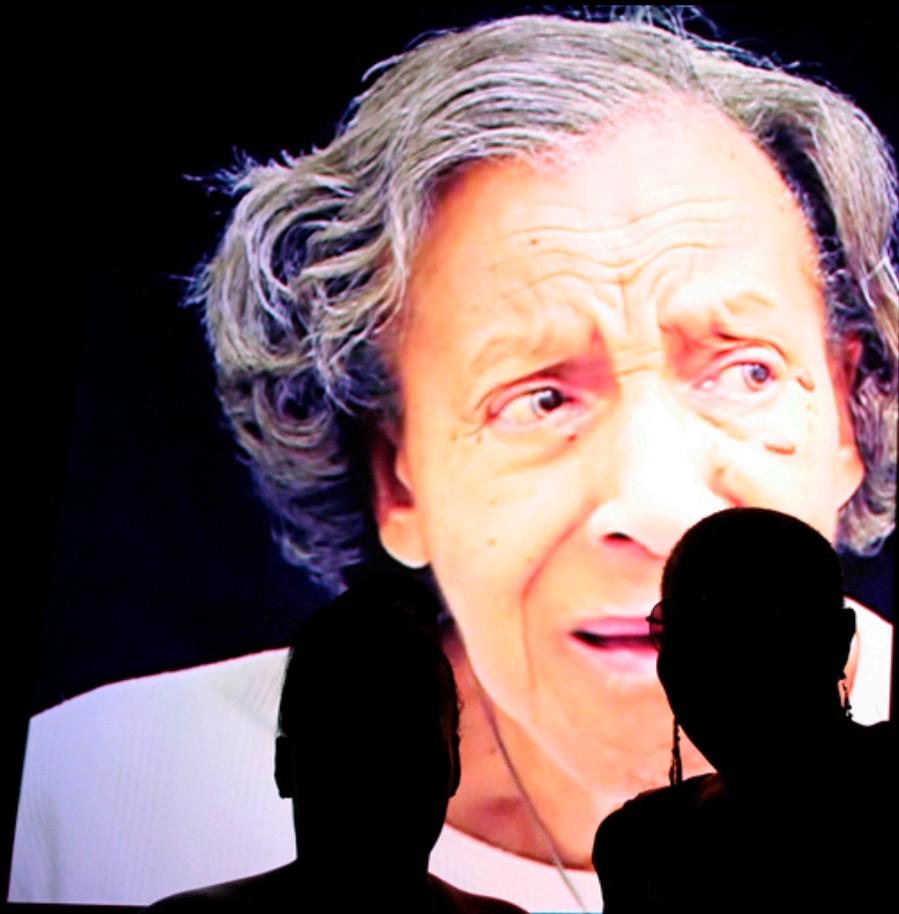


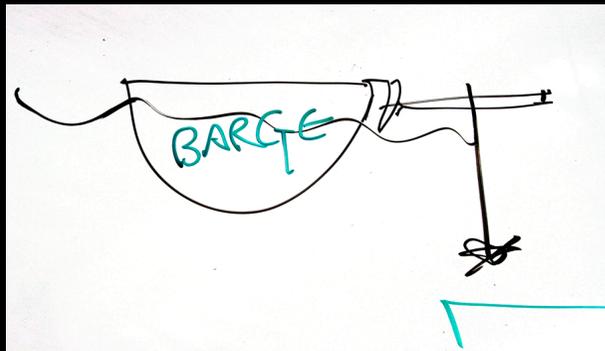
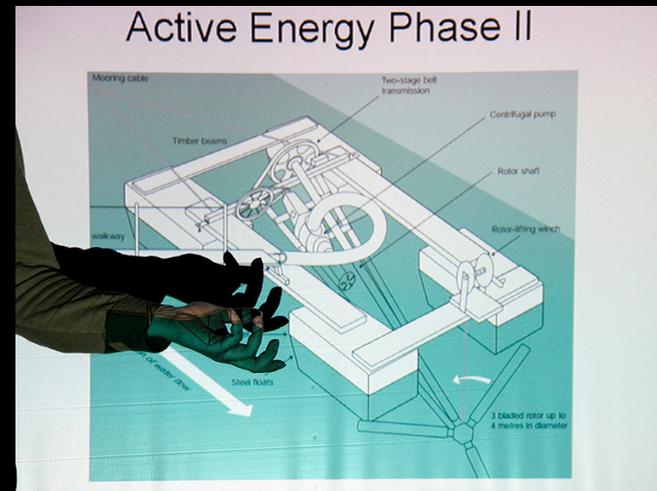
Northside Seniors, Pittsburgh

Mattress Factory
museum of installation









meanwhile back in London...









arising issues...



an invitation



the art of negotiation



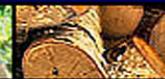
collaboration or participation?



managing multiple partners and participants



map

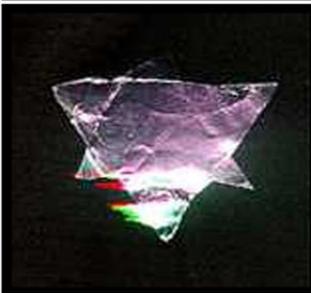
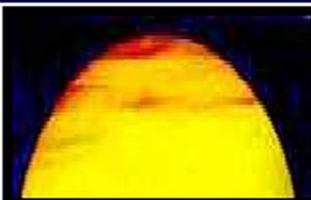


Millennium Mob

Zap

My ears hear the truth

My eyes see what people think



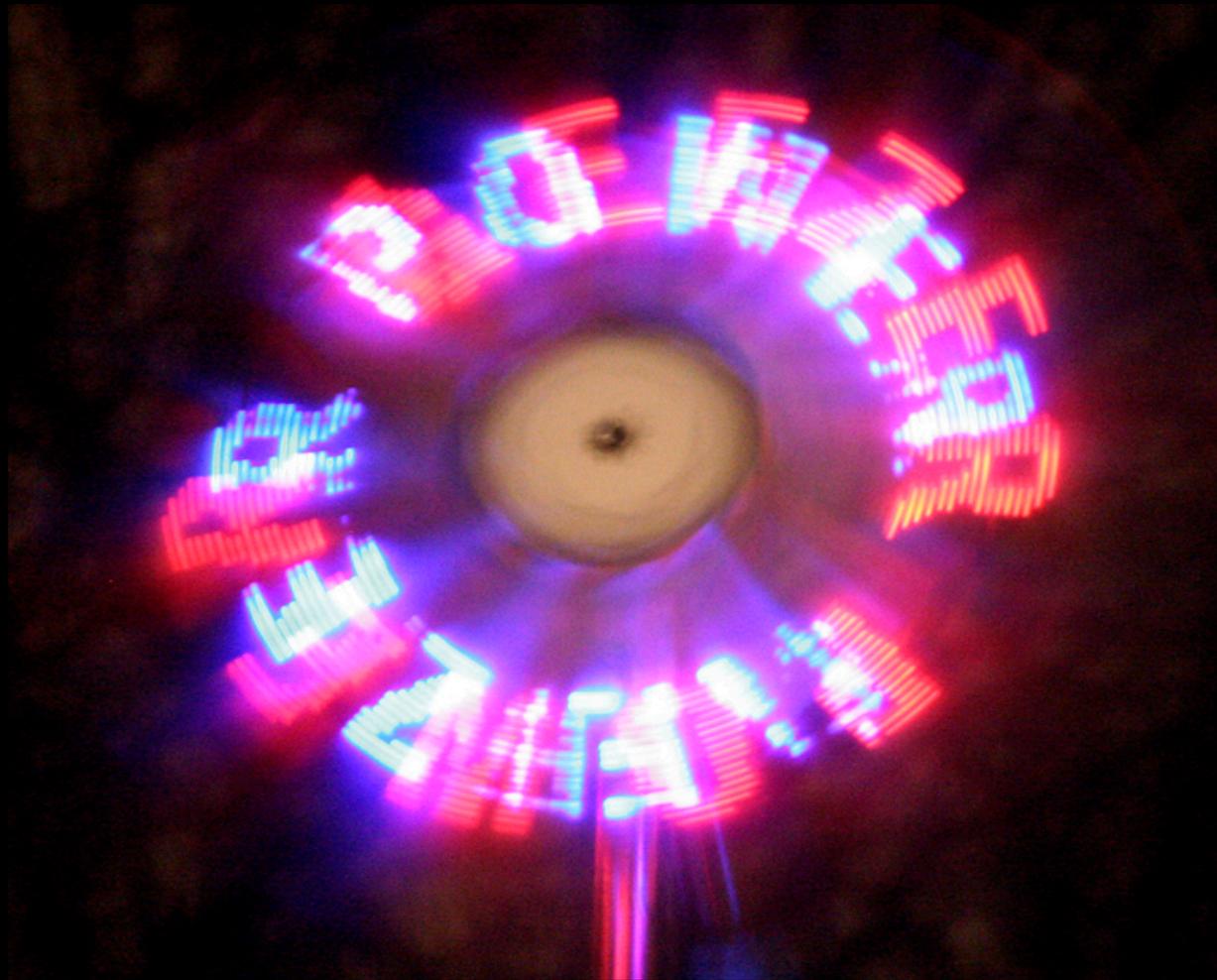
I live on top of the sun. There's just me and my twin Zip. I wear black flares and starry shirt. I can see the whole world on my shirt. I have an invisible hat. My trousers turn into anything. I am 10 years old in your world, 100 in mine.



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managing collective input



a process/product continuum



funding



individual or organisation?

