Mentoring Network: Mentor Information

1. Blair Todd, Deputy Director/ Exhibitions Curator, Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Cornwall
2. Sara Matson, Artistic Director, Tate St.Ives, Cornwall
3. Ali Roche, Producer (Film & Video) Spike Island, Bristol
4. Sally Watkins, Curator, b-side, Dorset
5. Rob Bowman, Director of Programme, Arnolfini, Bristol
6. Erica Steer, Director, Devon Guild of Crafts
7. Judith Robinson, Programmes Manager, Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery
8. Jo Leahy, Director, SVA, Stroud, Gloucestershire
9. Ros Carter, Head of Exhibitions, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
10. Sarah Chapman, Director, Peninsula Arts, Plymouth
11. Richard Tomlinson, Creative Technologist, Somerset Film
12. Matt Burrows, Curator (Visual Arts), Exeter Phoenix

Blair Todd, Deputy Director/ Exhibitions Curator, Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Penzance, Cornwall

Blair Todd is the Exhibitions Curator/Deputy Director at Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Cornwall. As well as delivering twelve shows per year over both venues, he also curates many of the shorter projects and events. He creates platforms in the main gallery programme for artists' development including the annual Transition project, as well as social/interactive projects, residencies, live art and performance. He has been involved in a number of artist-led groups and been guest selector for exhibitions and awards at other organisations, as well as visiting lecturer at Falmouth University. Newlyn Art Gallery, with The Exchange, its second venue in the centre of Penzance, has a long history of presenting major solo exhibitions, including John Armleder, Christine Borland, Marcus Coates, Tania Kovats, Tatsumi Orimoto and Lawrence Weiner, as well international group exhibitions. The gallery’s Learning and Participation Programme, which is increasingly integrated with the exhibitions programme, has a national reputation for its peer led projects with young people and is currently developing a project with residents in care homes.

Sara Matson, Curator, Tate St.Ives, Cornwall

Sara Matson has been a curator at Tate St Ives since 2003. She has managed and curated numerous exhibitions, displays and publications on British Modern and Contemporary British art and also ran the Tate St Ives Residency programme from 2003-9. She is now supporting aspects of the Artists Programme, managing the British Modern displays for the new gallery extension with the view to curate a show on Patrick Heron for the new Building. Other projects include That Continuous Thing Artist and the Ceramics Studio 1920 – today which she is co-curating with Sam Thorne and artist Aaron Angell, Artistic Director and Jessica Warboys which she is co-curating with Laura Smith, Curator Tate St Ives. Sara is chair of the Hepworth Steering Group which oversees the management and running of the Hepworth Museum and Palais de Danse as well as a PhD theses supervisor on the legacy of
Barbara Hepworth with Sam Thorne.
Sara is interested in opportunity for mutual learning and is happy to be flexible about how this works. She looks forward to meeting new artists and talking more art.

**Ali Roche, Producer (Film & Video), Spike Island, Bristol**
Ali Roche joined Spike Island in 2013 to form the new Spike Film and Video department. Having previously worked as Producer for Picture This before it merged with Spike Island she now develops and manages the delivery of Spike Island’s moving image commissions and presentations and a services offer to artists and organisations on the production of ambitious moving image productions. Ali has worked on many large scale moving image commissions with a range of partners; she developed and produced Spike Island’s recent co-commission Patrick Staff’s *The Foundation* co-commissioned by Spike Island, Chisenhale Gallery, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver and Institute of Modern Art Brisbane, which is currently included in the British Art Show 8. Additional artists and partners Ali has worked with include Maryam Jafri, Jimmy Robert, Hito Steyerl, Ben Rivers, Emily Wardill, Chisenhale Gallery, Gasworks and Film London. She is currently producing Larissa Sansour’s new film *In the Future, They Ate From the Finest Porcelain* for Film London’s FLAMIN Productions.

**Sally Watkins, Curator, b-side Festival**
Sally is a curator for b-side festival and a practising artist. Her interests are in site-specific practices and collaborations in place. She has worked as a commission manager for a number of years with artists working in the visual arts, live and performance and text based practice.

Sally has mentored and supported early and mid artists, most recently with artists who wish to expand their practice from gallery to non-traditional spaces. She is currently interested in the collaboration and exchange between communities, curators and artists, and questioning where ownership and authorship reside.

**Rob Bowman, Director of Programme, Arnolfini, Bristol**
Rob joined Arnolfini as Director of Programme in November 2015. Prior to this he was Head of Programmes and Production at Artangel. Since joining Artangel in 2007 Rob led the production of several of the organisation’s most ambitious projects including Catherine Yass’ High Wire, Roger Hiorns’ Seizure and Ryoji Ikeda’s Spectra. During the course of his career he has worked with artists including Cerith Wyn Evans, Susan Philipsz, Ryan Gander and Jose Damasceno to create projects and exhibitions in many different forms and disciplines. Having begun his career at the then Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, Rob subsequently became Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London where he also ran the Beck’s Futures exhibition and awards.

**Erica Steer, Director, Devon Guild of Crafts**
Erica is Executive Director of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, managing operations and working with the Board to provide strategic direction. At Riverside Mill in Bovey Tracey, the Guild runs an exhibitions programme for contemporary craft and operates a café and a retail outlet selling Members work. Learning activity includes an outreach programme which places makers with schools and community groups for short-term residencies, providing opportunities for continuing professional development for makers and creating accessible learning opportunities in the gallery. Erica previously held the post of Crafts Officer at Arts Council England South West, where her role included shaping regional and national corporate planning for crafts. She holds an MA in Heritage Management and BA (Hons) Business Studies. In a
previous life, Erica ran a small graphic design and print buying business and has worked as a paper maker and sculptor from a studio in a rural craft centre. She understands the challenges of developing a creative business and juggling many demands. Erica has an extensive knowledge of craft markets and audiences, and also of the world of grant funding. She has a particular interest in developing networks, knowledge sharing and exchange and is co-convenor of CraftNet, the national craft leadership network.

Judith Robinson, Partnerships & Programmes Officer, Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery
Judith is a visual arts specialist with a broad knowledge of historic and contemporary art practice. Between 2000-2006 she was a Visual Arts Officer for Arts Council South West (and South West Arts) leading on capital developments in Newlyn, Penzance and St Ives, and regional curatorial practice; supporting strategic initiatives such as St Ives International; and developing partnerships between the arts and heritage sectors. Judith has been an elected member of the VASW Steering Group since 2012.
Managing collaborative partnership working between artists and museums is her particular focus, and creating opportunities for contemporary artists, curators and audiences to engage with historic collections and contexts in original ways. She was on Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery’s internal project team for their New Expressions 1 commission (2009), and project manager for the South West’s New Expressions 2 programme (2010-12). A founder member of Plymouth Visual Arts Consortium that presented BAS7 in Plymouth in 2011, she has previously devised curatorial projects with artists, historians and independent curators.
As a former art museum curator, she has extensive knowledge and experience of managing and interpreting fine and decorative art collections, and has worked with many artists on commissions, exhibitions, residencies, programming and audience engagement.

Jo Leahy (SVA), Director, SVA, Stroud
Jo is co–director of Stroud Valleys Artspace (SVA) which is based in Stroud, Gloucestershire and is a National Portfolio Organisation. As a founder member, artist and co director she has been a key strategic player in the formation and development of SVA which provides studio space for professional artists and promotes a year round innovative artistic and educational programme. SVA was initiated in 1996 by Jo Leahy and Neil Walker, with a vision to see the potential in the physically and culturally empty spaces in the heart of a struggling market town in the south west of England. SVA is now recognised as one of the most active and exciting organisations representing artist led practice in the South West.
Jo is jointly responsible for the development of the Site festival, a contemporary arts festival now in its 19th year, which involves over 400 local, national and international artists in over 80 sites throughout the Stroud district. Jo has worked on contemporary art exhibitions with arts partners such as Darbyshire, White Cube, Index, Caroll Fletcher and Kerlin Gallery to present new contemporary work by internationally significant artists as well as supporting the production of numerous performance and music events.

Jo can offer skills such as Setting up and developmental stages for artist-led groups, Business planning, Networking and creating collaborative projects, Event management from conceiving ideas, to final event and evaluation, Publicity and marketing.
Ros Carter, Head of Exhibitions, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton

Ros Carter has worked at John Hansard Gallery for several years and currently holds the post of Head of Exhibitions. She has over twenty years’ experience of organising exhibitions at a national and international level, and has overseen numerous artist’s commissions within the JHG programme and has forged links with many other organisations, including amongst others: Tate, Film & Video Umbrella, Photoworks, Hayward Gallery, Forma and The Arts Catalyst. Recent curatorial projects have included an exhibition of Andy Warhol’s Film and Photography; Performance/Audience/Film (including artists; Ian Breakwell, Franko B, Oreet Ashery, Blast Theory, Joshua Sosaer, & Dan Graham); Nancy Holt & Robert Smithson; Mel Brimfield, Death and Dumb and An Audience with Willy Little; Jeremy Millar, The Oblate. These projects reflect her interest in artist’s film, installation and performance, along with the work of early conceptual artists and Land Art. Additionally, she plays a key role in working at a local and regional level with other arts organisations and galleries in the Southampton and Hampshire region. She also served as a Visual Arts Advisor for ACE South East between 1997-2004.

Sarah Chapman, Director, Peninsula Arts, Plymouth

Peninsula Arts is a cross platform public arts programme at Plymouth University. Sarah’s main area of interests are curation, writing, painting and photography, however her role requires an active engagement and knowledge of contemporary art, film, music (classical and contemporary), performance and dance theatre. Working within a university environment Sarah has a particular interest in cross-disciplinary practices bringing together art and science, the historical context of many new art forms and understanding how audiences engage and learn within a gallery/ cultural environment. For artists who have an interest in these areas she is able to provide links to a wide academic / research network, as well providing critical support for the development of ideas. Sarah can also offer advice with organisation, how to communicate/present artwork to a number of publics, fund raising and links to diverse communities across the South West that have an interest in culture.

Richard Tomlinson, Creative Technologist (‘Ignite’ programme), Somerset Film

Richard’s training was initially in conventional photographic processes, over 20 years this has evolved into a practice that includes the moving image, digital image making, multi media and online platforms. Richard is currently delivering the ‘Ignite’ programme - a project is designed to provide artists, working across a wide range of media, with an opportunity to explore the creative potential of digital technology. Richard can bring to the Mentoring Network his experience of working with both emerging and established artists, through the Ignite programme, along with technical experience in a wide range of digital media applications designed for editing stills and moving images and creating interactive spaces and online content.

Matt Burrows, Curator (Visual Arts), Exeter Phoenix

Matt Burrows curates the contemporary art programme at Exeter Phoenix, managing its four separate exhibition spaces and programme of talks, screenings and art classes, having previously worked in various roles in both the commercial and public arts sector including at Spacex in Exeter and Victoria Miro Gallery in London. After studying Fine Art at UWE in Bristol he went on to spend 10 years in London working with artists, art consultants and commercial galleries. Lured back by the beaches of the South West and a growing family, he has been with Exeter Phoenix since 2008. He is passionate about working with emerging artists to realise new work and giving them a supportive platform to try out ideas and bring them to the public.