

Interim Report

'Exploring the relationship between Teaching and Learning through Practice'

Boyes/ Cousens/ Stuart 22 March 2007

Work completed and in progress:

We have observed and recorded, by film, photography and sound, six demonstrations from the MDes Materials Practice / BA(Hons) WMCP courses. Three demonstrations in metals showing the techniques of *Soldering*, *Welding* and the *Introduction to the Machine Workshop*; and three in Ceramics, *Hand Building*, *Raku Firing* and *Turning on the Whirler*. We selected these demonstrations specifically because they covered a range of student levels, group size, technical processes and formats of delivery. Four of the demonstrations were delivered to level 1 in the autumn term as their first introduction to the material areas, and two were to level 2 at a more advanced level at the beginning of their material specialisms. *Soldering* and *welding* are similar joining techniques but are at a different scale. *Raku Firing* has a parallel in the use of a flame and heat as an essential part of the process but relies on group participation. The *introduction to the machine workshops* is a lecture style delivery without practical involvement from the student. In *Hand Building* the students were interactive with the process and in *welding* they all took a turn in demonstrating the process. The *whirler* was demonstrated to a larger group of students with restricted viewing.

Evaluation and analysis of the demonstrations took the form quantitative research from student questionnaire, and qualitative research through recorded student interviews, review of work produced following the demonstrations and analysis of the films. The analysis of the films involved group discussion with student participation.

We have identified and started to make comparative observation of process and technical demonstrations in other practice based courses. We have observed a demonstration in the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences in medicine, Design and Analysis section. We have approached Sports and Exercise Science, Physiotherapy, Culinary Art School and Brighton School of Medical Sciences. We will observe a post graduate master class delivered by Tavs Jorgensen at the RCA in the Ceramics Department in April.

We have been involved in a consultation group at the V & A for the redevelopment of the new ceramics galleries. The group discussed the space in the gallery, the proposed studio space and how processes and techniques are communicated to the public. We have also contacted the V & A metal work curators to examine current practice in their galleries.

In January we held a forum to discuss our work in progress. The participants were drawn from education, research, practice, the student body, and arts organisations, across the fields of ceramics & metal. We invited Felicity Aylief, senior lecturer in ceramics, from our partner institution - the Royal College of

Art. Nicola Woods, researcher at Sheffield Hallam University, gave a presentation on her Phd research "*Transmitting craft knowledge: designing interactive media to support tacit skills learning*". Anna Carlisle brought cross discipline insight to the discussion from her knowledge of dance and choreography. Discussion evolved, during the course of the day, from a series of practical demonstrations and videos and presentations exploring a variety of approaches to learning by demonstration.

A showcase exhibition was held in the CETLD space to coincide with the forum and for the following month. It showed examples of Level 1 work made after the demonstration of the techniques of soldering, hand-building and raku and video clips of the demonstrations.

We are currently evaluating our findings in order to draw together a report to be published August 2007. The findings are grouped around 4 key areas of interest which influence teaching and learning through demonstration:

- Communication and delivery of the demonstration
- The environment - both physical and contextual
- Role of live performance and media
- Student involvement and interaction in the demonstration

We have submitted and had accepted a proposal for a workshop to the ELIA Teacher's Academy to be held at University of Brighton in July 2007.

Website information has been posted on the project, forum and showcase exhibition.

We have also undertaken initial research into related studies for example:

- *Haptic Technology* Anne Marie Shillito research at ECA
- *Student Approaches to Learning in Fashion Design: a phenomenographic study*
- Sue Bailey Art Design and Communication in Higher Education Vol1 no2 2002
- *Threshold Concepts and Troublesome Knowledge: Linkages to Ways of Thinking and Practising within the Disciplines*
- *Demonstrating motor skills – rethinking that expert demonstration (teaching motor skills)* Gibson F Darden The Journal of Physical education, recreation and Dance v68 n6 August 1997 pp13(5)
- *Learning from demonstrations: the role of visual search during observational learning from video and point-light models.* Robert R Horn A Mark Williams Mark .A. Scott Journal of Sports Sciences 20.3 March 2002 p253(17)
- Interactive demonstrations: examples from biology lectures; William j Straits and R. Russell Wilke
- Journal of College Science Teaching 35.4 Jan –Feb 2006 p58(2) from Expanded Academic ASAP
- *The Way We Cooked* BBC2 video
- *Hand Raising Goldsmith's Hall training Videos* video

Events attended:

Digital explorers II *Haptic Technology - Touching the Void* Anne Marie Shillito at Metropolitan Works, London
V&A Ceramic Galleries Consultation Meeting
Visit to Silver Galleries V&A

CETLD events attended:

CETLD Faculty Launch

Media training Workshops - video/ video digital imaging & editing; web2.0 – blogging wikis etc; i pod /pod cast; given by Sina Krause

CETLD Scholarship seminars

Architectural pedagogy Richard Patterson

Using Biomechanics to Enhance student learning about Chair design – Haq/Rose

Critiquing the Crit B Blair

Case Studies Glynis Cousins

Project Reviews:

July 2006

November 2006

Seminar project teams meeting 24 Oct 06

Support for cetld teams 29th march 2007

Work to be completed:

- Continue observing demonstrations in other practice-based courses and at RCA (April 24th).
- Makers to come in to demonstrate work within the University and visits to makers working in their workshops
- Visit to Handling collections
- Further research into related studies
- Progress forum
- Creation of a Learning tool
- Report