



Cape Farewell - Floating lab: Sea Change

Date: 19 August – 8 September 2013

Location: Locations across Orkney and Shetland, Scotland's Northern Isles: including Stromness, Quoyloo, Hoy, South Ronaldsay, Kirkwall, Papa Westray, Rousay, Fair Isle, Scalloway, Vaila, Foula, Papa Stour, Muckle Flugga, Whalsay, Lerwick.

Cape Farewell organised a journey with 24 artists and scientists from Orkney to Shetland via Fair Isle. This floating lab considered the relationship between people, place and resources in coastal and island environments, with an emphasis on the role of community agency and local knowledge in developing social and ecological resilience. The development of a lasting cultural between artists, communities, and cultural platforms and amplifiers was a pivotal focus of the project, contributing to the GALA goal of network building and cross-form advocacy.

The floating lab was designed to build bridges between disciplines and extend the capacities, reach and interconnectedness of participating artists. Events have taken place at established cultural sites across the islands and mainland (such as Cove Park, An Tobar, and the Pier Arts Centre), in partnership with Trigger, the Botanic Gardens, and Oran Mor in Glasgow, and with the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. The floating lab has, in this way, acted as the origin of a now-established network of knowledge exchange - across disciplines, sectors, art forms, and communities. This network aims to instil artists with the confidence and capacity to act as key participants in a rapidly evolving discourse around human futures, creating new work as the lab's enduring legacy.

There remains the urgent need, expressed by climate and social scientists and by local communities affected by accelerating change, for lasting dialogue between policy-makers, businesses and local communities. As such, this project developed Cape Farewell's historic programme of expeditions, education and making, to create an artist residency cluster in partnership with representatives from each of these areas: policy, business, and the community. Curatorial partnerships have been advanced with pioneering environmental and cultural organisations across the Northern Isles and Scottish mainland, and an exhibition of works arising will be embarking upon a national tour. Cape farewell is keen to establish a long term curatorial relationship with Translocal (HU) in specific and welcomes the rest of the GALA partners to build on the knowledge acquired with the floating Lab. Next steps in the framework of GALA are to share experiences organizing and realizing a complex multilayered lab, collaborating with local organizations and artists with the rest of the partners.



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