

en-quire - *inspiring learning in galleries*

What is en-quire?

en-quire is an exciting national action-research programme with the aim of exploring, assessing and articulating the special learning benefits to young people of working with contemporary art and the gallery space.

The programme aims to identify key success factors that will build an evidence base to support the provision of more gallery education, contribute to policy, resources and good practice in the gallery sector.

The enquire programme is funded jointly by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the Strategic Commissioning Programme for Museum and Gallery Education. The *enquire* programme is managed by *engage* and has been developed in association with Arts Council England. (for more information go to www.en-quire.org).

en-quire explores the key question:

What are the conditions for enabling learning in the gallery context?

The programme began in Autumn 2004 and initially involved three clusters or consortia of galleries and higher education institutions across England. The three original clusters were in the North East, East London and the South East.

The South East Consortium involves a partnership between Fabrica in Brighton, the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill, the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne and Creative Partnerships in Hastings and East Sussex. The consortium is also working with the University of Sussex.

Phase One of *en-quire* was completed in March 2006 and involved project work with young people alongside Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers, artists and gallery educators.

For this phase the Pavilion undertook the 'Utopia 2' project, in partnership with five local secondary schools.

A detailed report on the findings of all three clusters is available from *engage*.

Continuing this phase, the SE Cluster focused on CPD and dissemination, and on exploring elements of the action research approach adopted by the *en-quire* programme.

This phase involved:

- Three seminars aimed at artists, teachers and gallery educators to disseminate and discuss some of the findings and learning from *en-quire*
- Action Learning Sets
- Investigatory visits to six regional and national galleries to share practice

· Development of a CPD course for professionals working in gallery education, to be run by the University of Sussex.

Phase Two brought four new clusters on board that are based in the North West (Manchester), North West (Liverpool), South West and South East.

In the South East, we expanded the cluster to include two new partner galleries – Aspex in Portsmouth and Quay Arts on the Isle of White.

Project work with young people was undertaken by all six galleries between September 2007 and February 2008. At the Pavilion, we worked with Sidley Young People's Centre in Bexhill.

In 2008/2009, the South East Cluster was involved in a European Learning Partnership that explored best practice in working with young people in galleries. This project involved working with partners from Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and Italy.

For more information on all aspects of the *en-quire* programme see www.en-quire.org