

# Claire Simpson CV

– educator, trainer, forest school leader, artist, photographer

My website and blog: <http://storiesunderstones.weebly.com/index.html>

Older blog posts at: <http://storiesunderstones.blogspot.co.uk/>

Joint website with Katy Doncaster to share collaborative projects:  
<http://storiesunderstones.weebly.com/index.html>



## Overview:

I am a sole trader (self employed) working predominantly through collaboration with schools, community groups, organisations, artists and venues; creating work through projects, residencies, commissions and training. I'm based in Derbyshire and have worked all over the UK in projects in schools, woodlands, festivals, day centres, pre-school groups, community centres, museums, galleries, theatres and coastal areas amongst other places. I've worked with people of all ages, particularly undertaking a lot of work with pre-school children, primary-school aged children and people with learning disabilities.

I draw much of my ethos from the Reggio Emilia ethos and the deep connections with nature that are fundamental to educators in Scandinavia; and I've studied in both Reggio as well as Denmark and Sweden. I believe that we all use our imaginations and creative instincts to play, to learn, to explore, to communicate and to make sense of our surroundings, ourselves and our experiences. Whether working in collaboration or by myself I seek to work in a way that is about engaging with this sense of exploration and playfulness.

I'm driven by a love of the natural world; a connection to nature, natural resources and the land feeds into all projects I work on. I'm interested in exploring the relationship between people and places, looking at landscapes and buildings and the stories and histories associated with them. I'm fascinated by tales, words and narratives – real and imagined – and how these can be described visually and the shadows and traces people leave on their journeys.

I'm driven by working through collaborative projects which enable people to creatively explore their own ideas, imaginations and expressions. I am especially interested in the relationship between different art forms and in exploring and expanding this through projects; linking visual and tactile art with music, dance, movement, words, stories and performance.

Finding ways to engage children with the natural world is central to my work and I've recently been making several wildlife-friendly spaces in school grounds as well as leading Forest School sessions in woodland and nature reserves.

I'm really passionate about documenting the adventures and discoveries that take place during projects. I use photography a lot and have had many images used in publications, signs for school grounds and exhibitions. I'm very influenced by the pedagogical documentation undertaken in Reggio and in projects I spend a lot of time observing and recording children's learning and creative explorations.

### **Training / qualifications :**

- Level 3 Forest School Leader, Archimedes (2010 – 2011).
- International Study visit, Swedish Reggio Institute, with Sightlines Initiative (2009)
- International Study Visit, Danish Reggio Network / Forest Schools, with Sightlines Initiative (2008)
- International Study Visit, Pedagogical Documentation, Reggio Emilia, Italy, with Sightlines Initiative (2007)
- Bretton Hall College (1988 – 1991, BA (Hons) in Fine Art / Inter Arts).
- Lincoln Art College (BTEC General Art and Design, 1987 – 1988)

### **Employment history:**

- At present most of my work is as a self-employed creative practitioner, alongside working 12 hours a week as a development worker at Arkwright Meadows Community Garden in Nottingham. I have been self-employed since 2003, prior to that I was self employed part time (see below).
- September 1997 – October 2003 part time as co-manager of Mantle Community Arts in Coalville, Leicestershire, devising and delivering a range of inclusive arts projects across wide reaching sections of the community – schools, village communities, early years groups and others and in partnership with organisations such as the National Forest, museums and local authority. I worked as a freelance artist in addition to this part-time position.
- 1992 – 1997: Education and Outreach Officer at Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston, Lincolnshire, full time post, devising and delivering a wide range of inclusive community arts projects across the Borough of Boston with all ages and in many different community groups, schools, colleges and early years settings; working closely in partnership with local authority, other arts and community organisations, charities and further education centres.
- 1991 – 1992: freelance artist working from a studio at the Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham, Lincolnshire.





## **Current / Recent Projects:**

My professional practice has several strands – incorporating commissions, collaborative projects with other artists and with community groups and delivering training; all aspects of my work cross-over into each other. Having spent many years travelling around the UK working with groups I've now developed the way I work so that I can foster long-term and in-depth residencies. I relish being able to work with young people in this way.

I'm presently working on a long-term residency with Nethergate Special School in Nottingham, I'm working with all year groups (being a Special School the pupils range in age from primary through to Sixth Form) on a range of creative projects / forest school work and horticultural work. I am also working on a long-term forest school residency with Cromford Primary School in Derbyshire, working with pupils from all year groups all year round.

In July 2016 I come to the end of a 9 year residency as artist / forest school leader with Dunkirk primary, a very inner city Nottingham school. This began in 2007 with a Creative Partnerships project and developed as the school became a national School of Creativity, researching the ways adults and children together can creatively ask big questions. It's been an incredibly exciting residency with some really innovative collaborative work across the whole school.

Recent long term schools residencies and projects have also included Forest School work with Kirk Hallam Pupil Referral Unit (through Virtual schools, Derbyshire County Council), Cottmanhay Infants school, (Ilkeston, Derbyshire), Berridge Infant and Nursery (Nottingham), Highbank Primary School (Nottingham), Welbeck Primary (Nottingham) through Creative Partnerships.

I've run many training sessions for teachers, early years practitioners and others and have put together many training and information resources. I've made presentations and led workshops at several conferences. I was one of the lead artists on an early years project with West Sussex County Council which led to the creation of DVD and book about early years arts work. I've written a chapter for a book on creative participation ("Creative Approaches to Participation" edited by Helen Manchester and published by Routledge, 2011).



## Exhibitions / installations

### Previous events:

- Number 28 Arts Markets, Belper, various dates, on-going
- Belper Arts Trail, May 2019
- Kolin Ryyänen - Artist residency, Koli, Finland, September 2018
- Belper Open Houses exhibition May / June 2018
- Belper Arts Festival trail May 2018
- Melbourne Arts Festival Trail, Derbyshire, September 2017.
- Sherwood Arts Festival, June 2017, Nottingham
- Belper Arts Festival Trail, May 2017, Belper, Derbyshire
- Oton Arts Festival Trail, October 2016, Derbyshire
- Belper Winter Arts Trail, December 2016, Derbyshire
- Sherwood Arts Festival, June 2016, exhibitions and work with the Remarkable Recycling Gala.
- Melbourne Arts Festival trail, Derbyshire, September 2016.
- Exhibiting work as part of Vintage Arts Café events and artists fairs at Number 28 Belper, alongside the Farmers Market and Belper Food Festival, various dates throughout 2016 and 2017, these events involve close collaboration with other artists.
- Belper Arts Trail, May 2016, exhibition of my work in Oxfam Books.
- Various arts events in Belper throughout 2015 and 2016.
- Sherwood Arts Week, June 2015 – work exhibited in Mind charity shop, as part of the exhibitions programme, part of the Art in Shops programme and work being sold as part of the Remarkable Recycling Gala
- Prints exhibited as part of Group show, Doctors Orders, Carrington, Nottingham, April 2015 – June 2015.
- Belper Arts Festival Trail May 2015, Oxfam Books
- Protest Art Exhibition, NUAST, the results of a long term project with children at Dunkirk Primary School 2015.
- Birds Installation, a large installation of birds made out of old books created with all children at Dunkirk Primary School. 2014.
- Creation of a large series of clay tiles for a permanent installation of Dunkirk Primary School.
- Creation of textile banners, Cottmanhay Infants, Derbyshire, permanent pieces created with all pupils in the school. 2014.
- Sherwood Arts Week June 2014 – work exhibited as part of the Art in Shops programme and as part of the exhibitions programme – in a solo slot and also two group slots with the Sherwood Printmakers



- Scarthin Books, Cromford, May 2014 – joint commission with Katy Doncaster to create a large ceiling installation in the Art Room
- Belper Arts and Crafts Fairs, Strutts Centre, various dates throughout 2014.
- Green Christmas arts and music event, Number 28, Belper, November 2014.
- Doctors Orders group exhibition as part of Sherwood Printmakers 2014 and 2013.
- June 2012: collaboration with Katy Doncaster to create an interactive environment for children and adults at Lakeside Children's Arts Festival
- Spring 2012: creation, with Katy Doncaster, of further installations at Scarthin Books, Cromford.
- December 2011: creation of permanent installation in Children's Book Room, Scarthin Books, Cromford, Derbyshire. Commission with Katy Doncaster
- July 2008: creation of Cray Fish tea-party installation at Calke Park, for creative consultation with public as part of Watery Wildlife event with the National Trust.
- July and March 2008: development of Stories out of Place project through exhibitions at Clumber Park and Calke Abbey
- March 2007 – on-going: development of website and exhibition of work created through Stories Out of Place project with Katy Doncaster.
- May 2007: Way Out Fest, Rufford Park Nottinghamshire. Commission with Katy Doncaster to create 2 stalls as alternatives to traditional village fete activities. We created 2 installations for adults and children to interact with – Fish La and Shy Coconuts.
- November - December 2006: exhibition: Off the Shelf, Saltburn Artists Projects, North Yorkshire. Group Show.
- December 2006: creating large indoor mural at Orston School.
- October 2006: Nottingham Open. Exhibition.
- July 2006: Creating large indoor mural at Orston school.
- 2005 – 2012: several wax resist / stitched textile works exhibited at Squeak Restaurant, Hockley, Nottingham.
- 2004: commission for Next Stage, with artist Jessica Kemp, to create a huge processional puppet of Robin Hood and Maid Marian.
- Nov 2001 - April 2002: commission to create "Not Tonight Josephine" - a life-size female fabric puppet for The Wrong Audreys Theatre Company, in Newcastle upon Tyne (a Them Wiffies project) to be used in workshop processes with adult women with learning disabilities. Puppet is still in constant use.
- October 2002: Nottingham Open, exhibition.
- 2002 and 2001: Leicester City Gallery Open, exhibition.
- July 2001: Creating work sited in the Arboretum in Nottingham) as part of a group exhibition with POMPA to link with the Nottingham Visualise festival.



## Project Management Experience:

As part of all strands of my work I have many years experience of managing projects – this obviously encompasses managing myself as a full-time self employed educator / artist / project facilitator but within this there have been many individual projects I have either solely managed or that I have co-managed. These projects have included:

**Dunkirk Primary School artist / forest school residency** – there were many interlinking strands to this residency, with me co-managing both project development and hands on delivery of sessions with children and families as well as a lot of staff training and CPD. The work was focused on the pedagogy and the processes involved but there have been many permanent pieces of art work, films and installations created. I also developed many resource packs, risk-benefit assessments, ecological impact assessments and vast amounts of documentation, reports and presentations about the work. The various strands of work at Dunkirk have included:

- a recent year long project exploring the theme of Community working with all year groups and developing curriculum work around this theme.
- a six month project exploring issues around Protest Art and creating an exhibition of work made with the children.
- part of a team developing and delivering the Erasmus EU funded Small Action Big Change project which is a partnership with a school in Espoo, Finland and has included two international pupil camps (most recently in Finland in February 2016) where I played a key role as one of the creative leaders of these camps.
- being a key part of a team planning and delivering Inset sessions for all staff exploring outdoor education and creativity.
- developing a programme of outdoor education work with families of pupils and the wider community, including after school events, forest school family sessions, open days and exhibitions.
- Street signs for Dunkirk and Lenton – working with year 3 pupils to gather images in the local area and draw / design street signs which are sited near to both Dunkirk campuses.
- Flock of Birds project – working with all pupils and many family members to create a large permanent installation from a set of old damaged books.
- Pupil camps – working with key stage two pupils at residential camps in Derbyshire to plan and lead creative forest school work.
- Discovery Garden development – over several years, working with pupils, families and community groups. This space has grown over a 6 year period from a piece of quite neglected land overgrown with thistles and brambles, to a thriving educational wildlife friendly site, with a pond, living willow, copses of

trees, wildlife friendly planting, a cob oven (which was built over the course of a week by me and a teacher at school working with every child in school)

- creating a community mural with pupils and families in a busy underpass on a public route that connects the school to the Discovery Garden Space

**Stories Out of Place project** – this Arts Council funded project was developed, co-managed, run and evaluated by myself and Katy Doncaster,  
<http://somecuriousfinds.weebly.com/stories-out-of-place.html>

**Artist development grants** – I have also been awarded three separate grants for me to study in Sweden, Denmark and Reggio – all of which involved a lengthy funding application, management of the project and subsequent documentation and evaluation.

Prior to being self-employed I worked as co-manager of Mantle Community Arts in Leicestershire (a small independent arts charity with close links to the local authority) and this post involved managing a wide range of arts projects with a whole host of community groups and organisations.

Previous to this I was Education and Outreach Officer at Blackfriars Arts Centre in Boston, Lincolnshire, again an independent charitable arts organisation which ran projects across a wide range of community groups. My role there was to instigate, implement and manage projects and also to run many hands-on sessions with groups myself as well as delivering training.



## **Delivering training / work at conferences:**

For several years I've been developing ways of passing on ideas about arts activities and ways of working with groups; I've put together many information packs and training resources. Many of the projects listed elsewhere in this CV have included training for adults who work with children; I've run many training sessions for pre-school workers, teachers, play scheme workers, youth workers and emerging artists, looking at working with primary school aged children and the role of creative exploratory play in participatory arts.

This has also included:

- Running sessions at staff meetings at Nethergate special school

- Dunkirk Inset work, Lockerbrook Study centre, High peak, developing resources and running sessions to explore how connections with nature lead to conversations, language and literacy. March 2016.
- Kirk Hallam PRU, staff training exploring forest school and outdoor education
- Autumn 2014 – staff training on Forest School / creative work outside in school grounds, Cottmanhay Infants, Ilkeston.
- 2012, presentation of pedagogical documentation, as part of an INSET, Dunkirk Primary School.
- 2012, running INSET training for staff at Dunkirk Primary, exploring creativity and connecting children with the natural world
- 2011: Main author of a chapter in “Creative Approaches to Participation” edited by Helen Manchester and published by Routledge, 2011, exploring the Small Actions, Big Change project at Dunkirk Primary School.
- April 2011: whole day Parents Conference, run by Dunkirk Primary School at the University of Nottingham, I set up a creativity lab and ran sessions throughout the day exploring creativity with parents
- 2011 Inset sessions for staff at Berridge Infants school, Nottingham, exploring creativity and early years, pedagogical documentation and using open-ended resources with young children.
- 2010. Inset sessions at Rosehill Special School in Nottingham, exploring ideas around the Reggio Emilia approach and pedagogical documentation.
- November 2010 Inset at Highbank Primary exploring creativity and working with children outside and with the natural world.
- 2009, Inset sessions at Welbeck Primary with the project artists team, exploring tactile materials and touch.
- July 2009: Global Citizenship conference in Nottingham, making a presentation with Asima Quareshi about the Small Actions Big Change project with key stage 1 at Dunkirk primary school.
- Feb and April 2009: making presentations about creative exploration with early years groups, Sure Start, Leicester
- 2009: making presentations about creative exploration with early years groups, Sure Start, Leicester
- 2008: Highbank and Dunkirk Primary schools: delivering Inset sessions to staff looking at the ethos and work of the Reggio Emilia schools
- 2007: CreatAbility project in West Sussex - the artists team are co-authors of a book which was published nationally about the project and we ran sessions and a studio space at a conference as part of this work in June.
- 2003 and 2004: sessions for emerging artists (through IMPACT in Nottingham,), looking at working with primary school aged children and the use / role of play in participatory arts.

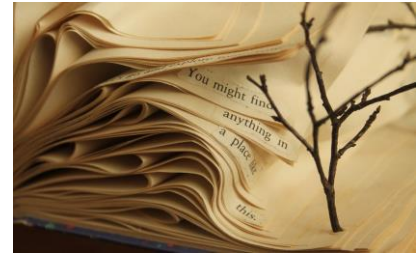




## **Exploration of environments and landscapes:**

A connection to nature, natural resources and the land feeds into all projects I work on and much of the work I undertake with groups explores ways of engaging with the natural world. I am committed to developing projects which explore this ethos and enable people to spend time with nature. In addition to other projects listed, projects exploring the environment have also recently included:

- Kolin Ryyänen - Artist residency, Finland, September 2018, spending almost a month as artist / creative practitioner in residence, exploring the forest, undertaking research and creating work in the studio in Koli and running sessions with the village school, exploring human connections with nature.
- UK National Parks land art project, July 2016, North Yorkshire.
- Residential project, Velskola, near Espoo, Finland, February 2016. Week long project with children from Finland and UK, exploring the landscape and issues around community. My role was specifically to document and create two films of the children's explorations, the films I created are available to view here: <http://smallactionbigchange.weebly.com/pupil-camp---velskola-feb-2016.html>
- Kirk Hallum Pupil Referral Unit forest school residency (2015 and 2016)
- Developing huge strands of my own artist work as a creative response of explorations in Derbyshire woodland (on-going over several years to present)
- Erasmus residency with Dunkirk Primary and Rastaala School (Espoo, Finland) which has included research study visits to Finland (2013) and two pupil residential camps in both the remote parts of the High Peak in Derbyshire (2015) and in the forests of Finland (2016)
- Dunkirk Discovery Garden – on-going between 2008 and 2016.
- July 2008: creation of installation at Calke Park, for creative consultation with public as part of Watery Wildlife event with the National Trust.
- July 2008: development of Stories out of Place project through exhibition at Clumber Park, as part of a Wildlife and environment weekend.
- March 2008: exhibition of work created during the Stories Out of Place project, Calke Abbey, Derbyshire.
- Study visit to Sweden
- Study visit to Denmark – An Artists Development Grant from the Arts Council
- Spring and summer 2007: Stories Out of Place – Arts Council grant funded artists research project with Katy Doncaster, devising work in response to two National Trust sites - Calke Abbey and Clumber Park.
- Summer of 2005: residency with the Norfolk Coast Partnership Trust working with Katy Doncaster. We made a series of banners, shadow theatre and environments with Wells Next the Sea primary school.
- Throughout 2003 and 2004: Newark Harvest project, exploring allotment sites with primary school children through drawings, prints, photography and words; with an exhibition of the work created.
- Oct 2002 – Jan 2003: Hemlock Stone Story Trail, (Broxtowe Borough Council), with storyteller Panya Banjoko. We worked with two infant schools and a special school to create a visual story trail
- Summer 2000: Year of the Artist residency with composer Duncan Chapman and the Philharmonia at Bromham Water Mill in Bedfordshire



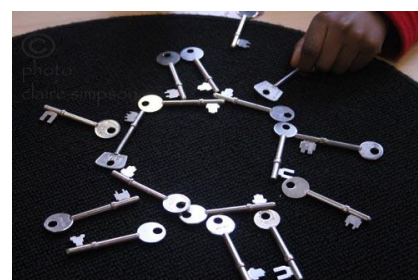
## **Work with pre-school / early years groups:**

For many years I have been exploring the nature of creative play with groups and have worked extensively with pre-school children throughout the UK. As well as many other projects listed here, this work has recently included:

- September 2008 – ongoing resident artist and forest school leader with Dunkirk Primary School, Nottingham, working with nursery and reception children every week (as well as rest of school).
- 2011 creation of a series of story-telling suitcases with parents and early years groups at schools and Sure Start centres in Mansfield, extended schools project.
- January – April 2011 – residency with nursery and reception classes, Berridge Infants School, Nottingham. Residency exploring lots of different resources, inspired by Reggio Emilia ethos.
- Feb – July 2009 : residency with Eyres Monsall Sure Start, Leicester, as part of Creative Partnerships Change School programme.
- Feb 2009 – July 2011: residency with foundation stage pupils at Welbeck Primary and nursery School, The Meadows, Nottingham, as part of Creative Partnerships Change school programme.
- Jan – July 2009: residency with foundation stage pupils at Intake Farm primary and nursery school, Mansfield, Notts, as part of Creative Partnerships Change School programme.
- Sept 2008 – July 2011: residency with foundation stage pupils at Highbank Primary and nursery school, Clifton, Nottingham, as part of Creative Partnerships Change School programme.
- November 2009: Arts Council grant to take part in international study visit with the Reggio Emilia institute in Sweden
- September / October 2008: Taking part in an international study visit with the Denmark Forest Pre-Schools. An Arts Council funded artists research and development trip.
- Summer 2008: Work with foundation stage children in Rosslyn Park and Heathfield schools as part of HEROW Creative Partnerships study group, Nottingham
- November / December 2007 – study visit to Reggio Emilia, Italy, taking part in an International study week exploring “actions of listening and making learning visible”. An Arts Council funded artists research and development trip.
- September 2007 – January 2008: 2 residencies as part of the second stage of the Nottinghamshire County Council Early Years Team project Create2gether.
- March – July 2007: Residency with 2 foundation stage classes (reception) at Carsic Primary school, Creative Partnerships BAM.
- February – May 2007: Residency with early years groups at Huntingdon Primary and Nursery, Nottingham.

- March – June 2006: second stage of CreatAbility project in West Sussex with 10 groups and a team of other artists; this included publication of a book (by Sage) about this work and a national conference, June 2007. [www.sagepub.co.uk/skinner](http://www.sagepub.co.uk/skinner)
- January – March 2006: Create2gether project (Nottinghamshire County Council) residencies with Blyth pre-school and Little Bears pre-school, Carlton, Nottinghamshire.
- January – March 2005: Pilot stage of CreatAbility project with 4 pre-school groups, West Sussex. Working with visual artist Teresa Grimaldi. Included the creation of a video as a training resource for early years groups.

## **Schools work:**



I regularly work in schools, both primary and secondary. I have extensive experience of working with early years groups and primary schools and with special schools throughout the country. Many other projects listed here incorporated work with schools and I have also run numerous one-off sessions in many different schools. As well as early years work listed previously, schools projects have included:

- Nethergate Special School, Nottingham, on-going residency, September 2016 – present.
- Cromford Primary School, Derbyshire, on-going weekly forest school residency, November 2016 – present.
- VISTA residency, Leicester, April – July 2016, working with drama practitioners Parmjit Sagoo and Trina Haldar to photograph and film the children's work with puppets as they explore issues around eyesight.
- Mashi Theatre residency, Leicester, work documenting school groups as they explore issues around the story of the Tin Forest. <http://mashi-theatre.co.uk/>
- 2015 and 2016 – residency with Kirk Hallam Pupil Referral Unit to explore forest school and outdoor creative approaches to learning, working with Key Stage 2 pupils and training staff. Part of a Derbyshire County Council project looking at ways to creatively work with children with attachment issues.
- September 2008 – ongoing: residency with all years groups at Dunkirk Primary and Nursery School, Nottingham.
- 2014 and 2015 – work with all pupils and staff at Cottmanhay Infants, Derbyshire, creating textile banners, clay tiles and running staff training sessions looking at outdoor education.



- Sept 2008 – July 2011: residency with key stage 1 and 2 pupils at Highbank Primary and nursery school, Clifton, Nottingham, as part of Creative Partnerships Change School programme.
- Jan – July 2009: residency with key stage 1 and 2 pupils at Intake Farm primary and nursery school, Mansfield, Notts, as part of Creative Partnerships Change School programme.
- Summer 2008: residency with Henry Whipple primary school, Creative Partnerships Nottingham.
- January 2008 – 2010 residency with Greenfields Community School, Nottingham, as part of Global Citizenship project with Creative Partnerships, Nottingham.
- Spring / summer 2008: Work with key stage 1 pupils as part of HEROW action Research group, Creative Partnerships Nottingham. Rosslyn Park, Hayden and Heathfield Primary schools.
- Summer 2008: residency with year 2 pupils at Carsic primary school, part of Wordplay project with Creative Partnerships BAM .
- February – May 2007: Residency with Huntingdon Primary School, Creative Partnerships Nottingham. Working with year 4 and foundation stage.
- 2000 - 2008: regular work with Orston Primary School (Nottinghamshire).
- January – February 2005: working with artist Katy Doncaster and 7 schools and community groups to create floating lanterns / processional decorations for the Chinese New Year celebrations in Broxtowe and at the Lakeside Arts Centre in Nottingham.
- November / December 2004: work with St Anns Well School to create sea creatures for an installation in the Wallner Gallery at the Lakeside.
- 2003 - 2004: residency with Lenton Primary School, Creative Partnerships, Nottingham.
- 2004: work with primary schools in Broxtowe Borough to create a series of banners as town centre decorations.
- In 2002: Residency with the BBC Philharmonic and composer Steve Berry in Temple Bank school for the blind, Bradford, creating sound / texture environments.



## **Collaborative multi art-form projects:**

I frequently collaborate with other artists and working on projects which bring different arts disciplines together is really important to me. Many of the other projects listed here involved collaboration; in addition this has also included:

- Various projects at Dunkirk Primary School working with drama practitioners, musicians, scientists and educators.



- On-going collaboration with visual artist Katy Doncaster, exploring ways of generating stories, descriptions and creating objects and spaces which invoke questions.
- 2009 – 2011: residency at Welbeck Primary and Nursery school, Nottingham, which incorporates collaborations with the other project artists – visual and movement artist Usha Mahenthiralingam, dancer Jenny Edwards and drama worker Sally Betteridge.
- Summer 2009: residency at Highbank Primary School, Nottingham, collaborating with visual artist Frazer Johnston.
- February – July 2009: residency at Intake Farm Primary school working with dancer Lucy Killingley, working with reception and year 5 pupils to explore movement and visual imagery together.
- August 2006: I worked with Isabel Jones and Duncan Chapman to create an interactive Snakes and Ladders board for the Aldeburgh Festival (Suffolk).
- In 2006: working with composer Duncan Chapman and schools in Shropshire and Devon to create work as part of Darwin's Dream, a new musical theatre production.
- 2005/6: several projects with the Britten Sinfonia in Cambridge. This included a residency with the children's wards at Addenbrookes Hospital and with primary school groups in Chesterton.
- Autumn of 2005: I worked on "Africa Yethu", a project with the BBC Philharmonic and the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Working with a team of musicians, poets, dancers and artists and with schools across Manchester and Cheshire; creating large scale masks for a festival weekend in October 2005.
- August 2005: Osmosis residency in Telford - working with Salamanda Tandem and Architects of Air as part of a team of artists.
- 2003 / 2004: part of a team of artists working on the Heaven Above, Earth Below project in Manchester with the BBC Philharmonic and the Bridgewater Hall. A documentary about the project was also created for the BBC.
- Winter 2003: I worked with TYPT - the youth theatre groups of Trestle Theatre Company - creating shadow work, puppets and set as part of their production of Grimm Tales.



## **Work with adults and children together:**

I'm keen to work on projects which explore creative play with adults and children together. I've run lots of projects with adults and children together and these have also included drop-in workshops at events all over the country making masks, puppets, instruments and more. Amongst others recently these have included events with:

- Family work as part of my residency at Dunkirk primary, Nottingham

- Sure Start at various events in Nottinghamshire.
- BBC in Manchester (Bridgewater Hall), Gateshead (The Sage) and Sheffield (City Hall).
- Philharmonia Orchestra in London (QEH), Bedford (Corn Exchange) and Leicester (De Montfort Hall).
- Britten Sinfonia in Cambridge (West Road Concert Hall) and Norwich (St Andrews Hall)
- Festival Hall in London.



## **Work with adults:**

- Inset training sessions – on-going across many different projects – see above section on delivering training and presentations at conferences.
- February and March 2007: sessions with the Growing Bolder project at Mansfield Museum.
- Autumn 2006: project with members of a dementia support group at Bramwell Day Centre with Involve. Creating a series of collaged panels of photographs, thoughts and memories of the local area for the inside of the centre.
- 2004: residency in Barncroft Day Centre to create a processional dragon as part of the Next Stage INVOLVE Carnival and running paper-making workshops as part of the Arts Network event at Rufford (for Next Stage).
- April 2003: Home Start – working with delegates at the 'The Next Generation' national conference to generate ideas and create textile pieces to celebrate the work of Home Start.



## **Processional projects:**

I've worked on many processional / carnival projects throughout the country with groups designing and creating their own costumes, street performances, puppets, banners, flags and lanterns. Amongst many others, this has included:

- October / November 2012, 11, 10, 09, 08, '07 and '06: Working with adults and children to make a host of lanterns for procession in Harby, Leicestershire.
- February / March 2007: Working with several groups to make work for the opening of the Market Square procession event in Nottingham City Centre. Working with Emergency Exit Arts and a team of other artists.
- Winter 2006 and winter 2005: Working with adults and children to create lanterns and large stars / snowflakes for procession in Annesley, Nottinghamshire.
- Winter 2004: I worked with several groups to create lanterns for the Lumos event at Rufford, Nottinghamshire.
- Numerous lantern procession in Coalville and Hinckley, Leicestershire.
- 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001: residencies with Aldeburgh Productions in Suffolk for the Aldeburgh Carnival, working with composer Duncan Chapman to create large musical structures and costumes with groups. Also working on lanterns for lantern procession as part of the carnival.



## **Professional development:**

Professional development is crucial to me and I place great importance on keeping my practice fresh, on networking, on gathering new ideas, on debating issues around creative practice and on visiting examples of diverse creative projects. I've always undertaken aspects of self-reflection and development and these are vital to my work growing; but in recent years this has become an increasing focus for me. I have sought specific ways of undertaking personal development through linking with other artists, attending retreats and courses and these have then fed back into the development of my work with groups and I've run several INSET sessions, training sessions and shared work with other artists. This has recently encompassed:

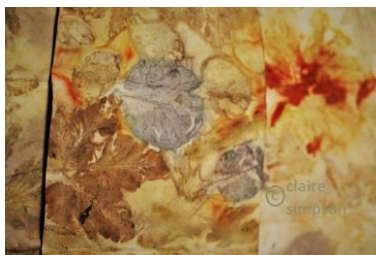
- Kolin Rynänen - Artist residency, Finland, September 2018, spending almost a month as artist / creative practitioner in residence, exploring the forest, undertaking research and creating work in the studio in Koli and running sessions with the village school, exploring human connections with nature.
- Sherwood Printmakers – on-going
- Creative ideas exchange / forest school leader meet ups, on-going, included work in summer of 2017 to explore ideas around botanical printing and natural dyes.
- Artists retreat, Snowdonia, summer 2017.
- Artists retreat and skills exchange, Snowdonia, summer 2015
- Part of Derbyshire Forest Schools network



- Member of several on-line discussion groups (national and international) relating to Forest Schools, connections with nature and creativity.
- Education for the Crisis – part of a group of artists / educators / researchers who are meeting and exchanging ideas around ways of working in education to explore global issues of climate change, peak oil, energy consumption and food. 2014.
- Scarthin Books, Cromford Derbyshire; working with Katy Doncaster to develop installations in the bookshop and its' garden area.
- Artists retreat and skills exchange, Snowdonia, summer 2014.
- Affiliate Member, Derbyshire Eco Centre
- Artists retreat / skills exchange, Snowdonia, summer 2012.
- Artists retreats / skills exchange, Isle of Skye summer 2011 and 2010.
- As well as on-going research, I've taken part in many wildlife watching, photography and natural history courses, including: Isle of Skye, with the International Otter Conservation Trust 2011, Wild Brown Bear Centre, Finland 2009, various wildlife study centres throughout Lapland, 2007, Aigas Field Centre, Scottish Highlands, 2007.
- July 2011: took part in a course to build a cob oven, Derbyshire Eco Centre.
- May 2010 – March 2011: Level 3 Forest School leader training course, with Archimedes.
- Attended the Materials and Imagination conference, exploring Reggio Emilia ethos and approaches to resources run by Sightlines Initiative, Tynemouth, 2010.
- November 2009: awarded an Arts Council grant to attend an international study visit with the Reggio Emilia Institute in Sweden. Sightlines Initiative.
- September / October 2008: awarded an Arts Council grant to attend a study week in Denmark with the Danish Reggio Network and Forest Pre-Schools. Sightlines Initiative.
- An international study visit to Reggio Emilia, Italy, November 2007, looking in-depth at ways of observing and documenting children's creative exploration and how adults can facilitate and nurture this. This trip was funded by an Arts Council grant. Sightlines Initiative.
- Stories Out Of Place, spring / summer 2007, an artists research and development collaboration with Katy Doncaster, devising work in response to two National Trust sites - Calke Abbey and Clumber Park. Funded by Grants For The Arts and supported by the National Trust. We've developed this project through creation of a website, researching further ideas and creating installations / exhibitions of our ideas, thoughts and creations at both Calke Abbey and Clumber Park in the summer of 2008.
- I was part of a team of artists working for 2 years on the early years CreatAbility project in West Sussex and this incorporated a significant element of artists research and development.
- Forums for debate and discussion through projects such as the Global Citizenship research project with Creative Partnerships where a group of artists and teachers meet to discuss and debate issues around the work.
- Through setting aside specific time in my own career for research and development of new practical ideas and for research through reading, attending conferences, exhibitions and viewing many other arts projects across the UK.
- Through being a member of the ReFocus Network and through discussions with staff and other members. (ReFocus is the UK based network of artists and early



years educators who are influenced by the work of Reggio Emilia and is a part of the Sightlines Initiative, based in Newcastle.)



## **Other interests:**

It's often hard to separate things into "non-work" as everything interlinks for me and the world is a fascinating place. Time in nature for gentle contemplation is crucial to me and I spend vast amounts of time in wild places – walking, photographing, watching wildlife, contemplating and learning. Mostly these are places in the UK, I adore the wilds of Scotland and Wales spending a lot of time on the Isle of Skye and in Snowdonia and I spend much time in remote parts of Derbyshire where I live and also the fens where my family live and where I grew up. Being outside in all weathers and throughout the seasons inspires me greatly and I really relish attending events and courses exploring issues around ecology, conservation, wildlife watching and the history of the landscape.

I'm an avid reader and mostly these days find myself devouring non fiction books about nature and human interaction with the wild – favourite writers include Robert Macfarlane, Richard Mabey, Oliver Rackham and Roger Deakin amongst others. My own wildlife friendly garden is a vital place for me and the rewards of gardening for wildlife and seeing frogs, hedgehogs, many birds and insects all thrive there are wonderful. Exercise for me is all about being outside walking and exploring.

Making things is a crucial part of who I am and this obviously has always been a key part of my work but I also am constantly creating things outside of specific work projects – mostly with natural materials and much of it working outside. I love exploring various textile techniques and am really interested in the use of natural dyes. And I'm rather addicted to creating quirky granny square crochet blankets.

I love history and especially the areas of history which explore human interaction with the landscape. Music is another big passion of mine, especially folk and world music, I love to sing and especially in choirs and informally through sessions at folk festivals etc.

