

prosper out of the storm

Interim Findings From the Prosper Programme, East Kent

Martin Heaney
The MAP Consortium
University of Canterbury Christ Church
martin@prospertogether.co.uk

www.prospertogether.co.uk

WHAT IS PROSPER?

- Prosper is an Arts Council England funded programme running in East Kent in the South East of England. It's about unusual ideas, unlikely connections and untested partnerships that explore:
- **Social change** | how collaboration can make a difference to the way people build, serve or transform their communities or organisations.
- **Place** | how collaboration can shift or encourage a different understanding of, connection to or commitment to a place
- **Interdisciplinary Work** | how collaboration between artists from different disciplines can develop new skills and thinking and produce adventurous work
- Prosper processes: experiment, enquiry, artist-led conversation

PROSPER PARTNERS AND PROGRAMME

- Gatherings: (June-August 2012) Recruitment, 'match-making'
- Experiments: (September 2012-January 2013)
- Adventures: (February 2013 onwards)

Key Partners

- Canterbury Festival
- Workers of Art
- MAP Consortium



PROSPER - Experiments

**Tracey Falcon / Andy Evans /
Whitstable Yacht Club**

- How do we re/create cultural value by making new connections between land, sea and people?
- How do we engage the Yacht Club in ways that they have a sense of ownership in the project?







PROSPER – Collaborations with HE

Future Foundry / Canterbury City Partnerships / Canterbury Market / Sam Giles / BSK CIC

- Can we make a more welcoming City Centre by uniting the market traders and the students?
- How do we foster commonality?



PROSPER – Collaborations with HE



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Turner Contemporary / University Of Kent, Canterbury / Cognitive Media

- Does the process of Philosophical Inquiry enable us to communicate ideas more strongly to a diverse audience?
- Can a collaboration between such different disciplines help us to a greater (deeper) understanding of an artwork?



'The periodic table of elements is for me what the colour spectrum is for a painter. My ambition as an artist is to be the 'Turner of matter'... As Turner severed colour from depiction, I attempt to sever matter from depiction. Copper is more profoundly different from aluminium than green is from red.'— Carl Andre



PROSPER – Collaborations with HE

Experiment

- Observations
- Outcomes

- Animation of Conversation
- <http://vimeo.com/62168205>



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Interim Evaluations indicating:

- importance of art-led facilitation and process to create dynamics of trust and experiment
- awareness of distinct model of practice with particular dynamics and qualities
- a new community of practice?

Next Phase Objectives

- Funding Applications to ECF
- Application to UCCC Knowledge Exchange programme
- Canterbury Festival Event
- Adventure-led Outcomes



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Taking Prosper Forward

- how do we work with academic structures, schedules and strictures and demands of teaching?
- money is still the elephant in the room.... experimentation happened but it is tough for artists to go alone
- how do we hold the language of experimentation when people expect solutions / work to instrumental agenda?

- **how can HE support genuine community experiment and innovation?**



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