

Mark Riley—Artist Profile

After graduating in 1993 Mark spent 10 years working in the voluntary sector, using arts practise to support his roles on environmental, community development and education projects. This period was also key to developing not only his community arts skills, but also gain experience of participation and empowerment of local people in multicultural urban neighbourhoods and inter-agency partnerships.

Since turning freelance (as Creative~States) in 2003 he has worked with a wide variety of people from all walks of life. Clients have included schools, local authorities, voluntary and charitable organisations. He delivers training , and is invited to deliver workshops at conferences.

His practice is process-led, and revolves around helping people think, make sense of where they are and provide an opportunity to express this. He has a track record of delivering successful activities, from one day workshops, through long term projects to residencies, using mainly recycled and natural materials, and use a broad range of 2D and 3D techniques in his work, including drawing, painting, collage, clay, puppets, willow, and tree dressing to name a few. He aims to share skills with participants, and provide opportunities for those whose circumstances may prevent them having access to arts experiences. A core value of his work is for the participants in his workshops to lead the process of creating and making— not for the artist to take their ideas and produce his or her own interpretation. As far as possible the projects are developed from the participant's ideas and are all their own work, facilitated by Mark. He prides himself on his interactions with people and his partnership approach to working with practitioners and agencies.

He is always looking to try new ideas and learn more stuff.

Mark Riley
Community Artist

Creative~States
Arts & Community Development

Artist Profile & Code of Practice

Creative~States


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Code of Practice

This code of conduct briefly summarises how I will work, values and ethics.

- 1. Compliance.** As a Creative Practitioner I will comply with all necessary legal requirements, for example holding a current Enhanced CRB certificate, Health and Safety regulations, Child Protection, and Public Liability Insurance.
- 2. Competence.** As a Creative Practitioner I will hold all necessary certificates and complete training to ensure that I am competent to fulfil the work required. This would include such things as Emergency First Aid as a minimum.
- 3. Child Protection and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Young People & Adults.** As a Creative Practitioner working with children and vulnerable young people and adults I aim to provide activities that will encourage learning and developmental opportunities and assist them to develop new skills within a safe environment. Following procedures and guidelines will help to minimise the potential risk for abuse and create a positive environment for everyone involved.
- 4. No Harm Principle.** Risk/benefit assessments (including ongoing dynamic risk/benefit assessments during activities) will be used to reduce the chance of harm of any sort to the participants, adults or children.
- 5. Beneficence.** Children, young people and adults will only be invited to participate in activities where there are benefits to the experience.
- 6. Mutual Trust and Respect.** As a Creative Practitioner I support and embrace a policy of equal opportunities. I will endeavour to develop mutual trust and respect with all participants, both children, young people and adults, through impartiality and open and clear communication. All activities will acknowledge and promote the participant's voice.
- 7. Transparency.** As a Creative Practitioner I will aim to ensure that there is transparency in my practise, including my approach, planning and decision making through clear and open communications.
- 8. Shared Authorship.** My creative practise is based on a partnership approach with the participants and other practitioners. This means co-constructive development, supporting participants to develop their own work, not imposing my ideas or outcomes on the participants, and ensuring the participants have a voice in the work.
- 9. Confidentiality.** Everything is confidential. I can reveal what happens in a project if the participants, (or their parents/guardians), consent, or if the law says I must. Consent will be obtained for use of methods of documenting a project and its processes, and sharing these processes and their impacts. Any reference to individuals will be removed.
- 10. Consent.** People will participate only if they give their consent, without being forced, coerced or manipulated into doing so. Projects and activities will be communicated to participants in a way that they can understand and consent. Any participant can withdraw from activities or processes within a project, and where appropriate attending staff/practitioners etc can support participants who, in their opinion, show signs of wanting to withdraw from an activity.