

Jenni McConnell: Degree Show 2008

I started as a mature student whilst working part-time in IT - my brain was often befuddled shifting from creative conceptual thoughts to excel spreadsheets & business reports - hard work, but well worth it. The Fine Art course taught me new skills, I developed my language and critical thinking, honed my research and extended my creative passions into ever more focussed areas. I stopped painting, largely after discussions with Vincent Lavell - it was a great decision to make. Working with Michelle Rowley in the print studio I explored the medium of artists' books, which I still love today - my greatest accolade is having a book work in the Tate collection; a wonderful testament to the dedicated teaching I received.

The degree show is a wonderful moment to take stock of three years of personal growth, a time to reflect and a time to leap forward. I left Wirral Met to head straight to UCLan for the MA Site & Archive Interventions course. Michelle Rowley had suggested I look at it.

Over the years since then I have had some fabulous experiences, working with wonderful museums and public collections. I loved, loathed and learned so much working as a Research Artist and I was delighted to be commissioned for the first National Festival of Making.

By 2018 I realised an increasingly repeated imperfect phrase was ringing in my ear and I decided to listen harder to the sound of 'climate change'.

My practice is now totally focussed on our planetary crisis - I will use my creative ability to communicate complex interconnected subjects in ways to engage everyone. It is a shift from a deeper conceptual work to something more accessible - a response to the crisis we are in where we cannot afford to exclude anyone.

INSTALLATION IMAGE: Single-Use Planet? | Jeni McConnell (2020)

LINKS: jenimcconnell.com | singleuseplanet.blogspot.com

