



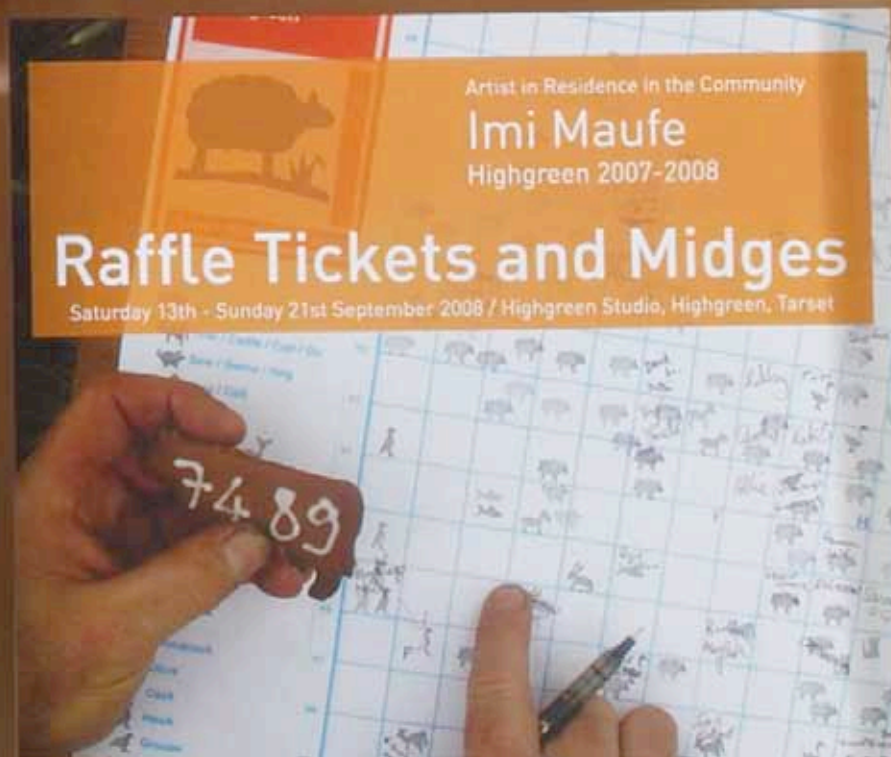
Calendar of Events

A Year
in Tarsset



TARSET
AND SURROUNDINGS

A - Z



Artist in Residence in the Community

Imi Maufe

Highgreen 2007-2008

Raffle Tickets and Midges

Saturday 13th - Sunday 21st September 2008 / Highgreen Studio, Highgreen, Tarsset

NORWAY DAY
CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Introduction

Imi Maufe initially trained and worked as a landscape architect and then completed a Masters in Multidisciplinary Printmaking at the University of the West of England, Bristol. This has led her to approach new projects through exploration of the landscape and place, its history and the relationship of people to it.

Imi has spent the year at Highgreen in Tarsset, Northumberland, and during this time she has fully embraced the life of the Tarsset community as well as the Tarsset landscape. Each piece of work in this exhibition captures and reflects an element of the artist's year in Tarsset, not in a representational way but from the inside.

Both landscape details and community events have inspired Imi and over the year she has made many quirky arts interventions and willing contributions to the local social calendar. A number of these interventions have invited responses, and all these experiences and reciprocal contributions have helped shape the body of work in this exhibition, along with Imi's attempts to grasp and interpret the geography of the place.

Imi has developed a series of works from a year's worth of collecting all manner of things - people's stories and favourite walks, postcards, objects, colours, trees, and place names. Her artwork takes a wide variety of forms: drawings, maps, photographs, prints, and objects. Each series highlights in an affectionate, inspiring or amusing way an aspect of Tarsset life or landscape that might otherwise go unnoticed or undervalued.

'Raffle Tickets and Midges' is Imi Maufe's end of residency exhibition. The title emerged from a conversation at a local village hall dance as one that seemed to capture the community spirit and natural environment of Tarsset.



October

cleaning flat for departure
packed car to capacity
out for farewell drinks
waving goodbye bergen fades
at last to highgreen
first time triangular walk
read article on shaving
big city newcastle experience
picked grapes drove home
circular route to otterburn
british telecom telephone saga
alone taking polaroid pictures
wasted day afternoon asleep
home via hollybush cycle
cooked road killed pheasant
bus to hexham haircut
failed to sort telephone
outside world finally connected
art school meeting reminder
slideshow talk in studio
digging mystery burial mounds
misunderstanding about porridge
dinner stunning sunset at quarry
cold kitchen camp coffee
caravan smashed in forest
chatting around cosy fire
village hall apple day
norwegian waffles on altar
hunt horses on horizon
drinking afterwards in bar
newcastle buying large shoes

Exploration

All journeys by foot and by cycle have been documented throughout the year as a way of keeping a diary. An ambition of living at Highgreen without a car failed to happen, but the car often stands for days on end collecting dust and bird droppings.

Cycling in the dark has been a real highlight of this year, even in the darkest months on the fullest of moons you can see enough to cycle without lights. Shooting stars and glimpsing of the underside of a barn owl's wing as it takes flight delight.

A postcard was sent out with the Tarnet News asking people to draw, from memory, their favourite walk.

Journeys Around Highgreen

An imiMAP edition, folded map documenting all paths and roads walked and cycled, with card cover
Screenprint
14.5 x 9.5 x 1.5 cm
Edition of 13

Journeys Around Highgreen Print

Screenprint
62 x 43 cm
Edition of 4





November

yellow mobile library arrival
low water tree stumps
tractor auction at mart
bird stuck behind panelling
polish sausages on bonfire
hitching lift on quadbike
shell explosions rattling windows
long train journey south
bottle top collection fascination
seaside picnic in dunes
living room film giggles
national park consultation gathering
sunshine after yesterdays snow
mangled rabbit in box
crack of dawn walk
hand stamping valley postcards
bacon and egg lunch
meeting friends misty cragside
first real rainy day
knocked doors no answer
studio day heaters whirring
urban exhibitions car chase
full moon frost shadows
city café lunch headache
sorting and tidying bothy
sunshine sycamore tree snacks
slow day under weather
planning community day ideas
christmas shopping and punctures
flying over island coastline

Trees with Character

There is a difference in this area of Northumberland between the ever-present dark massed trees of Kielder Forest and the single and scattered trees of the landscape around Highgreen. The scattered trees are like individuals with character.

A walk that is roughly triangular on the map has been walked every two weeks of the year in the same direction, but at no fixed time of day. This walk has become a natural calendar; documenting three of the trees changing slowly with the seasons in a series of Polaroids taken during these walks.

Three Trees Walk

A concertina book of scanned Polaroid photographs
Digital prints
36 x 10 x 3 cm (250 cm opened)

Everything Will Turn Green

Altered books in second hand box
Mixed media
35.5 x 25 x 24 cm





December

smell of gingerbread town
fantastic design market sales
family gathering familiar cooking
changing languages in head
five centimetres of rain
swimming in metal pool
travelling door to door
decoration making day merriment
red squirrel scampers past
a week below freezing
colourful drawing with pastels
far from madding crowd
meeting about school fence
smell of printing inks
hawfrost white sunset cycle
fish chips coast walk
carol service mulled wine
'cats oot the hoos'
this place is jinxed
fire warm living room
thick fog pea souper
visit from the manor
beginning of family festival
charity shop trouser purchase
four stuffed birds eaten
bitter walk on moors
returning to highgreen bliss
sickness and guest preparation
village hall dancing party
man with bicycle puncture
old year's night madness

Observations

Events of nature, organised events and happenings have been captured in multiples of 16 images, which have grown into a collection of 16 different observations. These include moonscapes, sheep tracks, door handles, old tractors and valley views. Much of this year has been about noticing small details, strange patterns, colours or just one particular view changing with the seasons.

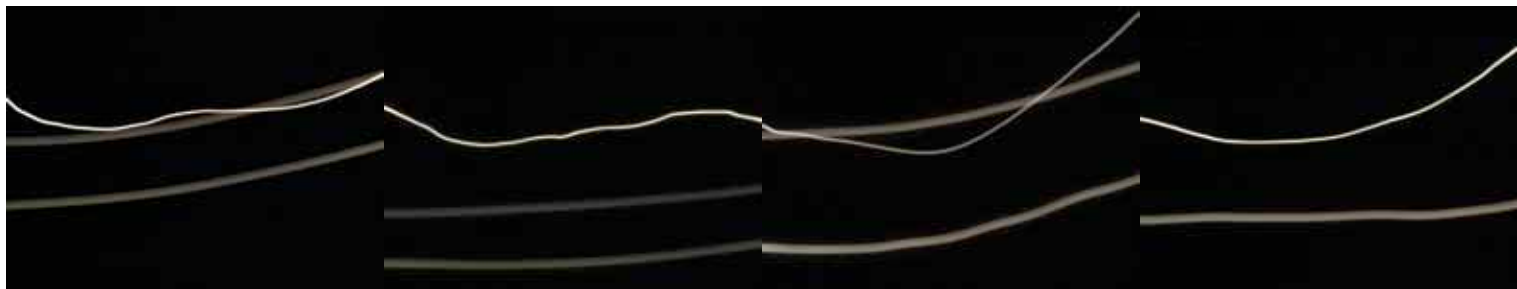
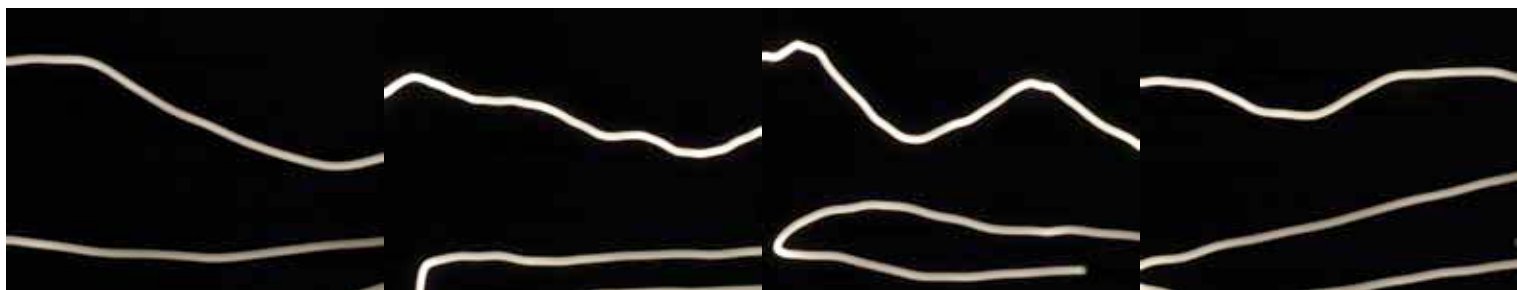
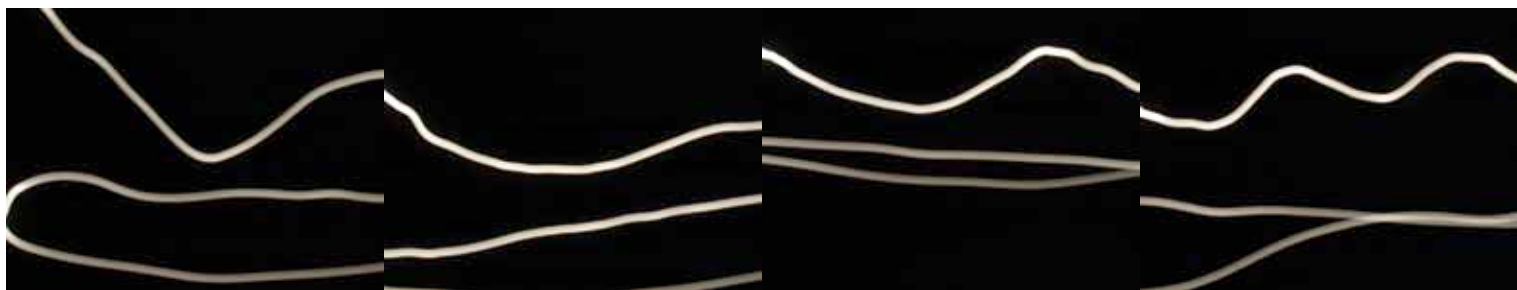
16 x 16 Observations

16 folded, stapled mini books housed in a card box
Digital prints and rubber stamps
7.5 x 5.5 x 5.5 cm
Edition of 16

16 x 16 Observations Prints

Digital prints
57.5 x 40 cm
Edition of 10 per Observation





torrential rain group slowness
 exhaust pipe falling off
 snow bound visitors stuck
 local play confetti cannon
 studio heater broken chill
 nearly back in order
 woken by resident sheep
 new toy new noise
 night of violent storms
 yellow library never arrived
 musical tunes local farm
 village hall supper dance
 day working indoors dullness
 learning to country dance
 pie poster graphic challenge
 suddenly noticed road lichen
 seeing stars through window
 choosing colours to match
 downtown city musical tunes
 eating pigeons with neighbours
 snowed out by lunchtime
 thinking in print again
 local climate change warning
 pub alive games competition
 butcher boys hijinks giggles
 old man playing dominoes
 letting sick otter die
 driving towards sunset glow
 rained hard shattered slow
 race catching morning bus
 broke down roads flooded

The second postcard sent out with the Tasset News asked for a response to the letter of the alphabet printed on the card, *something local beginning with.....*

Tarset A-Z

A concertina alphabet book of locally distinctive words and images
Screenprint
9.5 x 9.5 x 2.5 cm
Edition of 16

Target A-Z Print

Screenprint
56 x 37.5 cm
Edition of 18





February

snow cancelled school workshop
slide show cosy surroundings
grey inside grey outside
missed country dancing sick
bowl of rice diet
printing official pie aprons
architect students about art
school skiers journal workshop
ninety pies are challenged
walked to see cows
most spectacular frosty night
pub play recital confusion
couldn't get settled anywhere
women's institute monthly meeting
storytelling and printmaking workshop
funny smell on boots
dark mornings dark afternoons
energetic dancing pub afterwards
telephone calls catching up
biscuit chat with neighbours
helping others with art
birthday adventure over border
urban walk museums architecture
art challenge snowdrop walk
soulless hotel workshop tiredness
finishing school trips south
talk about night skies
family meal in bothy
final dance no proposals

Ninety Pies

Tarset 2050 (a Community Interest Company) organised The Great Pie Challenge which took place on the 9th February in Tarset Village Hall. This challenged Tarset residents to make the finest pie in several different categories. For weeks before and after the event there was nothing but talk of pies.

Invited by Tarset 2050 to design the poster for this event led to certificates, book plates, aprons and hats being printed to give the Taste Tarset event its own identity.

Pie Challenge

A concertina of pies and text to illustrate the event
Screenprint
7.5 x 7.8 x 1.6 cm
Edition of 16

The Great Pie Challenge Print

Screenprint
47.5 x 37 cm
Edition of 8





March

pub steak and chips
preparing extremely local food
hands on farm participation
disturbed stoat attacking rabbit
time vanishing doing errands
first thursday film screening
dinner with norwegian band
finally norway day happens
meals on wheels delivery
celebrating lunch in cafe
tidying up after weekend
poetry evening at sneep
excitement of curlews return
sea and contemporary garden
long walk visiting neighbours
measuring bastles in group
a long day south
cold cloudy but beautiful
bacon buttie on bench
discovering woods on doorstep
sharp bend sudden crests
looking after pub hilarity
snowball fights scrabble battles
lamb, beef, eggs, jam
toy shop viking helmet
butterfly genetics explained somehow
discovering neighbour had moved
seeking entertainment outside valley
skylark sounds provoke memories
forgot about clocks changing
quick dash to city

There is more to Norway than the Vikings

Having spent a year in Norway before moving to Highgreen and with Tarsset 2050's interest in hosting cultural events, Norway Day developed into a community event with a difference. Story telling, willow pipe workshops, exhibits and a waffle café took place in the afternoon. In the evening a three course Norwegian dinner, followed by music from Tørvikbygd (Bergen, Norway) and Sophy Ball and Hanny Pawsey (Newcastle) entertained 80 guests.

Norway Knits – Ways to Keep Warm in Winter

A book of luggage labels cataloguing a collection of socks and mittens sent from Norway, each with their own story
Screenprint
14.5 x 7.5 x 1 cm
Edition of 20

Norway Day - Cabinet of Curiosities

A collection of 32 picture cards of the Norwegian exhibits on loan from local people and housed in a museum cabinet during Norway Day, providing a curious look at Norway from within
Digital prints, housed in box made from an old atlas
11 x 8.5 x 2.4 cm
Edition of 16

Norway Day was generously funded by The Norwegian Embassy, Northumberland National Park's Sustainable Development Fund, Queen's Hall, Hexham and supported by Tyne and Wear Museums Services, Tarsset 2050 and VARC.



April

lamb stew for dinner
back of beyond journey
ate lunch outside studio
hour in hexham home
watching amateur dramatics unfold
bookmaking workshop with bob
morning awakening hailstorm white
through window mossy wall
eating car park chips
cycle ride to fisherman
national trust card reissued
sailing with no wind
moving faster dramatic skies
tree walk matching colours
printing socks and mittens
morning meeting making books
photo shoot embarrassment moment
train south plane north
hen do party games
mentoring meeting long conversations
projector problems colour talk
unwell hibernating hedgehog smells
cutting folding, hole punching
putting up noticeboard posters
book fair beyond border
interior conference room lighting
home on flooded roads
swallows have returned memories
bumping into shopping norwegians
family trip to theatre

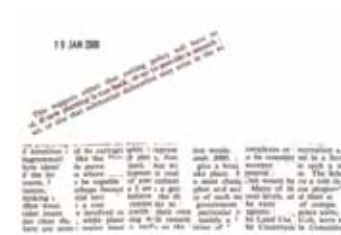
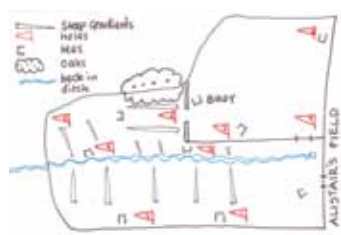
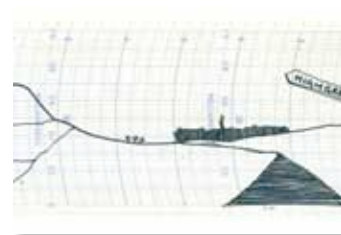
Posting News

VARC asks each artist in residence to produce a log book which can take any form chosen by the artist. Every week an illustrated postcard has been sent to Leo Amery, VARC's founder and main trustee, with reference to events, happenings and thoughts - sending a little bit of Tarnet out of the valley each week.

Postcards to Leo

Illustrated postcards sent to France each week housed in an album
Mixed media
Approx. 11 x 15 cm x 4 cm
Edition of 2 (one unfranked)





May

polling day silent walk
art student workshop imagination
cycling around open battleground
unusual sound of children
frisbee golf pub closure
heard familiar cuckoo sound
town hall russian entertainment
photographing spring trees ride
vest top linen trousers
swimming in waterfall heaven
finally intense green landscape
making farmers homemade brownies
forest village arts talk
distressed mother dead lamb
noisy dawn chorus awakening
week away from tasset
new dress wedding party
visiting large chalk man
city picnic in woodland
train across country "home"
morris drive for asparagus
circular penny farthing tour
high tea with granny
arrive home local party
collected newspaper from greenhouse
oaks are really sycamores
mapping animal place names
continuous fine misty drizzle
very productive studio day
wild flower verge spectacle
quick dip in stream

404 Different Colours Made in Tasset

Unlike the usual cityscape, the landscape of upland moorland is muted especially in winter, but on closer inspection there is a fantastic array of colours in this landscape. Discovering a business making hand-rolled artists' pastels in the locality was like being a child in a sweet shop. Several investigations into local colour have been experimented with, using the pastels in non-traditional ways.

This Colour...

Stories, quotes, reminiscences and feelings about colours documented at the Falstone Border Shepherd's Show
Unison Colour pastels, paper, button maker badges, ushers tray and polka dot
homemade 1950s style dress
Performance piece and collaborative book

Unison Jars

Unison Colour Pastels, ink
Installation

Unison Colour has generously supported this project and other community workshops.





June

learning about working stone
experimenting with ideas flying
gentle sound steady rain
jumping around hitting midges
cattle grid morning exercise
meeting increasing work pressure
emergency castle willow planting
cottongrass turning moors white
people watching sea paddling
again printing failed frustratingly
house with amazing inventions
aftermath of beer festival
making gingerbread for tomorrow
parish picnic animal game
plant sale cream teas
lucky petrol station find
stop for local vegetables
technical help about perspex
housework visitor preparation time
moon and twilight night
midsummers celebration for fiftieth
arts and crafts fair
travelling by public transport
finally cracking printing problems
midges attack river crossing
fun supermarket cereal offer
day away exploring island
local area unusually populated
peace alone quiet time
summer month of rain



Naming Animals

Due to the low numbers of people living in this area, animals are all the more apparent. Studying the Ordnance Survey Select map centred on Highgreen all place names that included an animal name were documented and printed as a pictorial map. This map and gingerbread animals with iced grid references formed the Hunt the Midge game that was played at the reintroduced traditional Parish Picnic.

Animals Around Highgreen

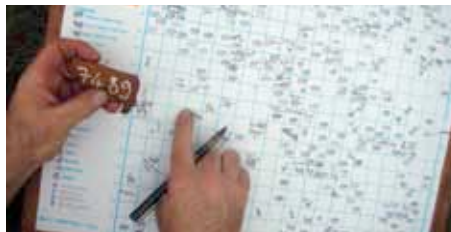
An imiMAP edition, folded map of pictorial animals with cover
Screenprint
14.5 x 9.5 x 1.5 cm
Edition of 16

Animals Around Highgreen Print

Screenprint
50 x 41 cm
Edition of 4

Hunt the Midge

Wooden box housing gingerbread animals with map on lid
Screenprint, wood, gingerbread, icing
40 x 50 x 5cm





meeting about walking festival
clipped sheep looking forlorn
post bus adventure conversations
dancing dust dancing difficulty
ate strawberries walked dogs
raffle tickets and midges
asking neighbours for favours
finishing project for playground
printers missing the point
hillside thistles purple explosion
delivered playground panel project
lazy day catching up
making bread and brownies
coming and going day
legs aching illness begins
cancelled tour to town
leaving valley in fog
making morris dancer outfits
surprise meeting festival cousins
colourful carnival delights onlookers
eventful journey returning north
too much to do
poetry discussions at manor
proof reading tea break
joyful day of printmaking
garden fete at rectory
new neighbours and old
roman hide and seek
watching the hay making
seven hours of printing
fish pie card games

Delivery vans, car journeys, the grape vine, Tarnet News, Hexham Courant; people's movement and communication in the valley are intriguing. The post bus is regular as clockwork, but does not get as far as Highgreen, nor does the snow plough, but newspaper delivery gets this far and so does the Northumberland County Council Mobile Library every other Thursday.

Living North of the North Tyne

A wooden bookshelf containing a selection of artist's books made during the year
Mixed media
23.5 x 27.5 x 13 cm





August

nights noticeably darker again
music festival in field
tractor floodlit quoits game
collating images and text
not enough midges complaint
working late into night
hot water bottle needed
tree beetles and bugs
people popping into studio
solid week of working
solitary time ends suddenly
fruitless wet shopping trip
radio plays keep company
drinking beyond valley boundary
much needed computer training
huge retail park confusion
lunch in delightful garden
testing bike trailers capabilities
labour intensive project help
leading healthy walkers silently
being interviewed by newspaper
ear defenders against flies
coloured buttons at show
bicycle repairs without lights
heavy grey skies again
getting catalogue finally finished
roof bats chattering away
ticking off long list
scrumping cabbages in dark
rain cancels agriculture show
group of scarecrow makers

Departure

All good things come to an end. A combination of all these good things documented whilst being at Highgreen has been housed in a specially adapted suitcase.

A bicycle, the main form of transport used this year in the valley for the artist in residence, will tow this suitcase in a trailer out of the valley, calling at Bellingham Heritage Centre and Queen's Hall Hexham, before arriving at Northern Print, Newcastle. Beyond Newcastle, who knows? This is the departure, but there will no doubt be a return to Tarsset in the future.

Raffle Tickets and Midges on Tour

Bicycle, bike trailer, camping table (folded into a suitcase), tailor made cabinet containing contents from exhibition
Mixed media







“My work this year has been about how creative practices can sneak into the most ordinary and extraordinary events; my work is not about high art, but about art that is accessible, artworks that can be part of people’s everyday lives in many different, quirky and unusual ways. It is the local people that make things happen here and although you will find no people represented in the work, that is fundamentally what this show is about.”

Imi Maufe, 2008

“The wonderful thing about Imi is the way that after a very short time in her presence I felt I’d known her for a long time.

I’ve adapted some words of Le Corbusier that seem fitting:

There seems to be several stages to her venture. To integrate with the landscape. To create a spontaneous relationship with the community. The slow development and execution of the work. The finished work fully embraced in a synthesis of thought and feeling.

Imi might surprise but does not shock, she shows us a sympathy for others by her ‘seeing in detail’, an acute observation of the extra ordinary in the ordinary aspects of everyday life. She sees the harsh realities of existence but also has and sees so much kindness, gentleness, courage, drive, laughter, wind, sky. Contact with a place, a situation. A word addressed to the place, to the four horizons.”

Leo Amery, Visual Arts in Rural Communities, 2008

Photography: Imi Maufe and Adam Lawrenson throughout unless otherwise stated
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Visual Arts in Rural Communities was set up to promote the understanding and enjoyment of visual arts in rural communities through contact with artists, creative workshops and mounting exhibitions. At the same time VARC intends that the residency provides an artist with an unique opportunity to develop his or her practice.

Visual Arts in Rural Communities is a registered charity No. 1091282.

www.varc.org.uk



