

Glossary

Arts Council England

A very political organisation that holds the purse strings and decides what art should be made.

Artspeak

Words that fill up a space. Words that may be beautifully designed. Words that swim in front of your eyes because they mean precisely nothing. Often found in calls for participation, Artist's Statements, expensive catalogues. Words that are not worth bothering with because they add nothing to the art, they just hang there, trying to look important. Current favourites: manifestations, bricolage, rhizome, heterotopia, spatiality, metafiction, discourse, bodies, intentionality, slippery, anything that has a / in it or O.

British Council

A very political non-political organisation that dangles money and adventure in front of you. They do this because they want to use your art to further British interests abroad. An organisation of soft power and cultural diplomacy.

Emerging Practitioner

A euphemism for 'young' that enables arts organisations to be ageist without appearing to be ageist. A confusing term: you may have been making work for years only to find that you are an emerging practitioner because you have been working beyond the realms of art institutions. None of that other stuff you've done matters, you don't really exist as an artist if you haven't been processed by a system.

Primary Professional Identity or Professional Practitioner

Organisations which say that their funding rounds are "for professionals only" are keeping the oiks out. We may dream of making a living from our art but the reality is that this is not available to most of us. Hustler is our actual Primary Professional Identity and we are Professional Practitioners of Ducking, Diving and Survival. This is also a gate-keeping concept that capitalises on working class women artist's ambivalence about calling ourselves artists, claiming space or feeling entitled to the good things in life.

Paid

A word that makes you jump at an opportunity only to discover that 'paid' actually means the shittest of shit wages.