

Working Class Glossary of Arts Words – Text

A

Autonomous: Self organized, independent.

Avant Garde: Artists 'ahead of their time', often not appreciated at the time of making but become more recognized as valuable in pop culture and appreciated as time goes on.

B

(Brackets) around thing(s): Shows words can be said and thought about in broad, different ways. For example, (in)visible makes you consider invisible and visible.

Overused a lot in academic writing.

C

Cabaret: Short form performance art of 3-7mins usually in a club or bar context with audience seated in tables together. Often viewed as accessible entertainment that is light hearted (see: 'Cruising with Jane McDonald Vol 2':

<https://jane-mcdonald.com/cruising-with-jane-mcdonald-vol-2>) and also

problematically used in an insulting way (see: 'Cabaret stars make a song and dance out of Gary Barlow's X Factor Jibes':

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2012/oct/19/cabaret-gary-barlow-x-factor>). In the alternative scene it often refers to work that has a strong political message and subverting expectations at its core, this can also break into the mainstream (see: Ursula Martinez 'Red Hanky Panky': <https://ursulamartinez.com/project/hanky-panky/> ,

Narcissister in season 6 of Americas Got Talent:

<http://www.narcissister.com/upside-down>).

Crit: Criticism/critique. Art school session where everyone goes around in a group giving feedback on each other's work, can be exhausting and harsh or helpful if constructive.

D

Durational: Performance art thinking about time. Can be 'long durational'- performances going on for 4hours+ or can be repeated actions over time.

E

Emerging: Often aimed at 'young people' 16-25, recent graduates and artists who have been working for a few years. Can be very useful schemes to find collaborators and gain support of an organization when they are first starting out but also can be dodgy with providing financial stability as emerging artists might be expected to work for free/ less £££. Highlights a difficulty for artists to take on 'mid scale' projects due to being forever emerging.

Ephemeral: Something that happens in the moment and does not last, e.g an improvised performance in a gallery that is never repeated.

Established: Making income from artwork and supported by organisations. E.g. Dame Judi Dench

Ekphrasis: used when talking about ekphrastic poetry, when the poem is about a work of art and is kind of like a fan fic, response or tribute to it.

F

Fan fic: artworks in the same world as a pop culture show or artist, sometimes mentioned when famous performance art pieces are re enacted.

Fetish: An object having power. When an artist has a fixation on a particular thing. Talked about in sculpture a lot.

G

H

Hegemonic: dominant or controlling group or idea, having power over others

I

Interdisciplinary: Does lots of things that can cross over, considers a broad range of mediums to work with when embarking on a project.

In kind support: Something people talk about when doing applications, usually an organisation has offered some free space or advice, which can be calculated into a monetary value and the arts council see this as a strong aspect as you already have some support.

J

Juried: There's a panel of judges in an art competition

K

L

Liminal: Relating to the border between two things, belonging to both or neither

M

Multidisciplinary: see 'Interdisciplinary'

N

Nuance: Subtle differences that can be interpreted in different ways.

O

P

Philanthropist: Someone who has a lot of money and donates it to support artists, seen a lot in universities and arts institutions and can be very helpful but also something to be wary of. Sometimes the £££ will try to clean money gained in dodgy ways by channeling it into art and 'philanthropic ventures'.

Problematic: the statement or viewpoints are suspect; not researched well, narrow-minded.

Q

R

R&D: Stands for research and development. In theatre things people just say R&D instead of 'research and development' and it might be misheard as 'arr en dee' and cause confusion, usually it means literally that- a period of time, usually in association with a venue/organization to research and develop work.

Remuneration: Money for things like food and travel to do a thing

S

Supernumerary: Extra, used when a theatre show wants a group of people to be a crowd on stage.

T

Temporal/ temporality: About time

U

V

W

X

Y

z