

Festival Makers Award 2012
Sarah Parsons statement post project.

The process of applying, being interviewed and receiving the award was efficiently managed and I felt very well supported. During the site visits, production period and on the day of the World Party in the Park, the project was well managed by The Making. Email dialogue was quick and efficient, as was phone and postal communication. It was a pleasure to be involved with The Making from start to finish and I'm glad that I had the opportunity of the award as a chance for professional growth.

The project has benefited my practice greatly in the following ways:

- 1) I have created a substantial piece of moving sculpture in metal and wood of a size and quality I have not achieved before.
- 2) The design I created required that I make a giant automaton. This was ambitious and challenging and developed both my making and engineering skills as even though I have made many very large sculptures I had never made an automaton so big.
- 3) I have employed specialists in wood and mechanical engineering. I realised once I had constructed a detailed maquette that the tools and strength I required to build the mechanical part of the automaton (with such accuracy and with such durable materials) was more than I have access to in my studio. By employing a specialist team I feel I have gained considerably in experience. I feel that I now have a highly skilled team that I can communicate with on a trusted level and that in the future I can apply for commissions with similarly ambitious boundaries. I feel that I have advanced the opportunity for my employment by developing a team working to my designs.
- 4) I have a degenerative medical condition, because of this I employed my studio partner Jo Coles to lead the children's school based workshops. Being able to develop workshop activities in the studio with Jo was great. It meant that I could continue using my expertise in designing/running workshops (15+ years). I may not be able to join in with the fun of being there but I can at least be part of the process. This is a way forward for me. I feel that by using Jo as my facilitator I can still seek work that has a community based element.