

## **Stuart Mccaffer Festival Makers statement.**

I was commissioned by The Making to make a piece of work for their world festival which was held on the 30th of July 2012. Along with the art work, the commission was to incorporate three full day workshops with 30 pupils from Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School in Basingstoke.

My work usually manifests itself as three dimensional spaces where the viewer is asked to participate by entering the space. These spaces all play with illusion and reality and take the viewer from the formality of the gallery, or in this case a park, to somewhere completely different. For The Making I wanted to play with the idea of optics using a simple camera. 'Shed some light' was in effect a large walk-in pin hole camera where on entering the public would find (once their eyes became accustomed) a image of the outside park projected onto a wall in the shed. On the outside dotted seemingly at random were six white shapes which, when inverted and flipped, shone on the projected wall inside the 'shed' and made up a global map of the world. In the past I have worked in a school environment but the numbers I have worked for in the past were much less than the full class that worked with me at Bishop Challoner School. The first day's workshop was an introduction to the camera and the way the eye works. The children were put in groups of 4 where they made their own pinhole cameras out of matchboxes, black tape, and a roll of film. In the afternoon they went out to take pictures using their DIY cameras. My work usually incorporates some kind of experimentation, and, in this case, the children who are used to seeing images immediately on their phones were asked to just to take pictures with the hope of their cardboard cameras storing their images to be seen later. Fortunately for me and them, out of the 8 cameras 6 films returned with pictures with some great images. For the next workshop the pupils were asked in their groups to chose an image and make large scale abstract drawings of their favourite photograph then using these drawings to transfer an even more abstract image directly onto the boards of the actual 'shed' making up a large graffiti paintings directly on to the artworks exterior. During all three workshops the children worked on the exterior maps of the continents. The help I received from the people at The Making was invaluable during the running of these workshops. Although I was very much left in charge they were able to help the children as well as help me with advice during all aspects of the three days at the school. On the day of the event I was very much left to my own devices which is not meant as a derogatory statement as I would much prefer it this way. It gave the children from the school the freedom to make the piece their own. They not only manned the entrance but were happy and able to describe the whole concept to the public as they were waiting to enter the shed. I think that 'Shed some light' was a very successful piece. There was a generous queue through out the day but for me the interaction of the kids from Bishop Challoner Chandler was what made it special for me.