

**Project Background:** Annabeth Orton teaches Art and Design whilst maintaining a diverse arts practice. Working as *Glittermouse*, her recent portfolio focuses on producing a tool kit of objects and events for facilitating interactions in cities. These provide opportunities for improving relationships with and in urban environments, empowering individuals to feel positive about their local areas.

Her work has resulted in a series of images documenting public workshops that showcase different perceptions and dialogues from local community groups and has successfully initiated conversations between individuals who would otherwise never have met. In April 2013, the work moved beyond the shores of the UK, opening up to include Chinese participants, both in visiting the UK and in response to their home cities.

The *PlaceMaking* workshops have been demonstrated to successfully encourage positivity in urban places when run with groups from different social and cultural backgrounds where participants have identified areas of commonality with others who live and work locally.

**What is the Global PlaceMaking Virtual Exchange?** To extend this project, a virtual exchange between artists and residents in Beijing and Manchester is being set up with the aim of highlighting examples of global commonality. The project will utilise web based tools and resources (such as an online gallery) to display and share comparable images of different urban environments.

Participants in China and in the UK will use provided templates to record an aspect of their local area that they feel strongly about by photographing their written thoughts in situ and uploading the images. These will be viewed online by both groups before a second set of photographs taken in response to the first is shared back with the original artists. There will then be an element of verbal discussion around these.

The images below exemplify this; **A** might be a response to **B**:



**A:** I want to see a bird house! *Hulme, UK*



**B:** I hope to see many birds! *Dalian, PRC*

## Participants are needed to share their localities and start the project!

**What exactly would I have to do?** Participation will involve writing a statement that describes a thought about your local area onto one of three supplied templates and photographing this in the place you are writing about. It should be an urban environment. You would then submit this photograph online, by email, or even by post. After viewing the photographs of Chinese participants, you would repeat the process in response to one of these images and would then be free to decide how much you wanted to engage in any discussion about the relationship between the photos.

If you have questions or would like to join in, please email Annabeth: [mouse@glittermouse.co.uk](mailto:mouse@glittermouse.co.uk).

Further information on PlaceMaking and other projects, can be found at: [www.glittermouse.co.uk](http://www.glittermouse.co.uk)