



THE PRINCE'S
FOUNDATION
FOR CHILDREN
AND THE ARTS

Oriel
Myrddin
Gallery

Press Release
15th December 2014

Children's Great Art to be the talk of the town

Children's Talking Pictures go on public display at Oriel Myrddin Gallery



Children from four schools in Carmarthen - Ysgol Y Castell, Ysgol Gynradd Llandybie, Ysgol Gynradd Peniel and Old Road Primary School – are having their artwork exhibited in a public gallery for the first time.

The children in Years 5 and 6 (age 9-11) have spent the Autumn term taking part in the Great Art Quest at Oriel Myrddin Gallery. The Great Art Quest is a national programme organised by The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts (Children & the Arts) to introduce children to the visual arts by partnering them with artists and storytellers at professional galleries. For many of the children taking part it is their first experience of visual arts in a professional gallery setting.

At Oriol Myrddin, the children were encouraged to discover the rich culture which originates in and around Carmarthen. Dylan Thomas's poem 'Over Sir John's Hill', which is located on the River Towy and contains interesting vocabulary and turns of phrase that create unusual imagery, was one inspiration for the project. Another inspiration and focus for the children's creativity was the gallery's winter exhibition, *Seren Wen* (Bright Star).

Carmarthen storyteller Megan Lloyd worked with the children and shared her own collection of lesser known Carmarthen tales. All schools learned the story of 'Salmon Cariad', in which a young coracleman is surprised on the River Towy when, by the light of the moon, the salmon he catches asks him to marry her and when after long protestation he agrees she turns into a beautiful woman. Each school then received their own story which connected to their geographical area.

The children learned to make their own concertina book which they used to illustrate the stories and write lines of the story and Dylan Thomas's poem. Working with Megan the children then took it in turns to perform their stories to the group. Using a range of games Megan encouraged the children to draw out specific details of each story and to use more descriptive language to help with improving their confidence and self-expression.

Working with Megan and the children was Swansea based artist Keith Bayliss, a specialist in fine art print. Keith worked with the children in designing, making and printing a block to create collograph prints of each story which were then assembled into big collective banners.

The children's artwork is now on public display at the Oriol Myrddin Gallery in a special exhibition called *Talking Pictures*.

The exhibition features the large scale and colourful collograph prints which depict local Carmarthenshire stories which have strange magical imagery and the children's story books which each uniquely reflect the imagery conjured from these tall tales. The imagery and exhibition also reflect and complement the *Seren Wen* winter exhibition which the children have seen.

Seren Stacey, Education Officer, Oriol Myrddin Gallery has been extremely pleased with the project:

"Many, if not most of the children had not been to a gallery or worked with a professional artist before, so we wanted to show the wealth of artistic practice going on in Carmarthenshire and to focus on local stories which would connect them to their surroundings."

"The Great Art Quest has provided us with a brilliant opportunity to get to know new local schools and work with teachers to give their pupils new and exciting experiences that will inspire them, broaden their horizons and appeal to their curiosity and creativity towards art and words."

"The Great Art Quest has also given us a platform to be able to share our education work with the public through the project and its final exhibition."

Jeremy Newton, Chief Executive of The Prince's Foundation for Children & the Arts is thrilled by the schools' work:

'The work in Carmarthen and at Oriel Myrddin is exemplary of Great Art Quest; inspiring the children's own creativity, increasing their confidence in visiting galleries, developing skills in learning, encouraging talents in producing their very own pieces of art, and of course having fun at the same time.'

Talking Pictures runs until 31st December and admission is free.

The School Finale days when participating schools visit their exhibition in the gallery are Weds 17th December 10-11am and 1-2pm and Thursday 18th December 10-11am.

Great Art Quest is generously sponsored by GAM.

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Notes to editors

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About The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts

The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts (Children & the Arts) was founded by HRH The Prince of Wales with the fundamental belief that every child has the right to be inspired by the arts. The charity's UK wide arts engagement programmes work with deprived children from areas of social and economic disadvantage and builds partnerships between their schools and local high quality cultural venues. The charity takes children on a journey into their local arts venue and unlocks the arts for those who need to be inspired by them the most, raising children's self-esteem and confidence, and nurturing their communication skills. Through the work of Children and the Arts, children learn that cultural venues are welcoming, accessible places to visit and since 2006 Children and the Arts has introduced over 300,000 children to life-changing arts experiences.

www.childrenandarts.org.uk

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