

Seen and Heard



The photographs displayed here are the result of two pilot projects exploring probation work from the perspectives of practitioners and people being supervised. This display represents some of the complexity of the experiences of both groups of people. These pictures have each been used as a vehicle expressing aspects of experience bridging difficult periods of transition in people's lives.

The diversity of the 700 images produced could have made many differing exhibitions. This selection attempts to explore the parallel preoccupations and environments of the two groups of people most centrally involved in supervision. The photographs have been used as a means of communication operating on multifarious levels.

A frequent response to being asked to engage with creative activities is the utterance "I am no good " but this exhibition is a testament to the latent creativity in us all. Being asked to work creatively with a throwaway or a digital camera requires a certain amount of courage, experimentation and playfulness, since there is a dominant familiarity with recording devices that we all habitually use. The camera is used here as a tool to explore rather than to aim for a perfect representation of an intention or record of an event.

The results were images that revealed hidden stories. Sometimes the "mistakes" became the works with the most profound meanings. Sometimes the photographs enabled people to articulate feelings of which they had not previously been aware.

The creative process is invaluable and the images as art objects enabled transformations to erupt or unfold. The image that is the receptacle of intention, then turns as an autonomous object and makes its own demands of how it is to be seen.

The photographs speak for themselves.

Carolyne Kardia.

These projects ('Picturing Probation' and 'Supervisable') were undertaken under the auspices of COST Action IS1106 Offender Supervision in Europe (www.offendersupervision.eu). Supervisable was also supported by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts and the University of Glasgow.











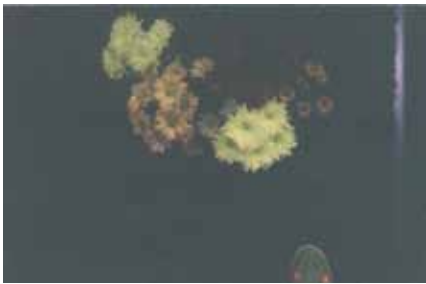












On 18th and 19th February 2016, the Seen and Heard songwriting workshop took place in Glasgow.

The workshop was led by Alison Urie of Vox Liminis (a Scottish charity that exists to develop creative practice in criminal justice and its reform) and by three musicians: Louis Abbott, Tim Davidson and Rollo Strickland. It brought together 9 people with lived experience of supervision, one criminal justice social worker, two criminologists, a radio producer and artist to write and record songs in response to - or somehow stimulated by - 12 of the photographs featured in this exhibition.

Each of the photos was hung on the wall alongside blank paper. Participants spent some time in pairs, reviewing the pictures, discussing the reactions that they evoked and noting related words and phrases. These word-banks became a resource for songwriting.

Some participants chose to write a song alone; others stayed in their pairs for the duration of the workshop. Many chose to write directly about their experiences of being supervised or of supervising someone else (mostly but not always in the context of criminal justice). Some reflected on wider experiences of punishment. For one or two people, the pictures stimulated reflections about other aspects of life. By the end of the second day the participants had written and recorded 12 songs. Louis Abbott will perform some of these songs at the exhibition opening. Recordings and a podcast created from the workshop are available on the Vox Liminis website:

www.voxliminis.co.uk/seen-and-heard/

The pages that follow contain pictures of the workshop in progress alongside lyrics from some of the songs.





Biodiversity, diversity, The Ocean's University.

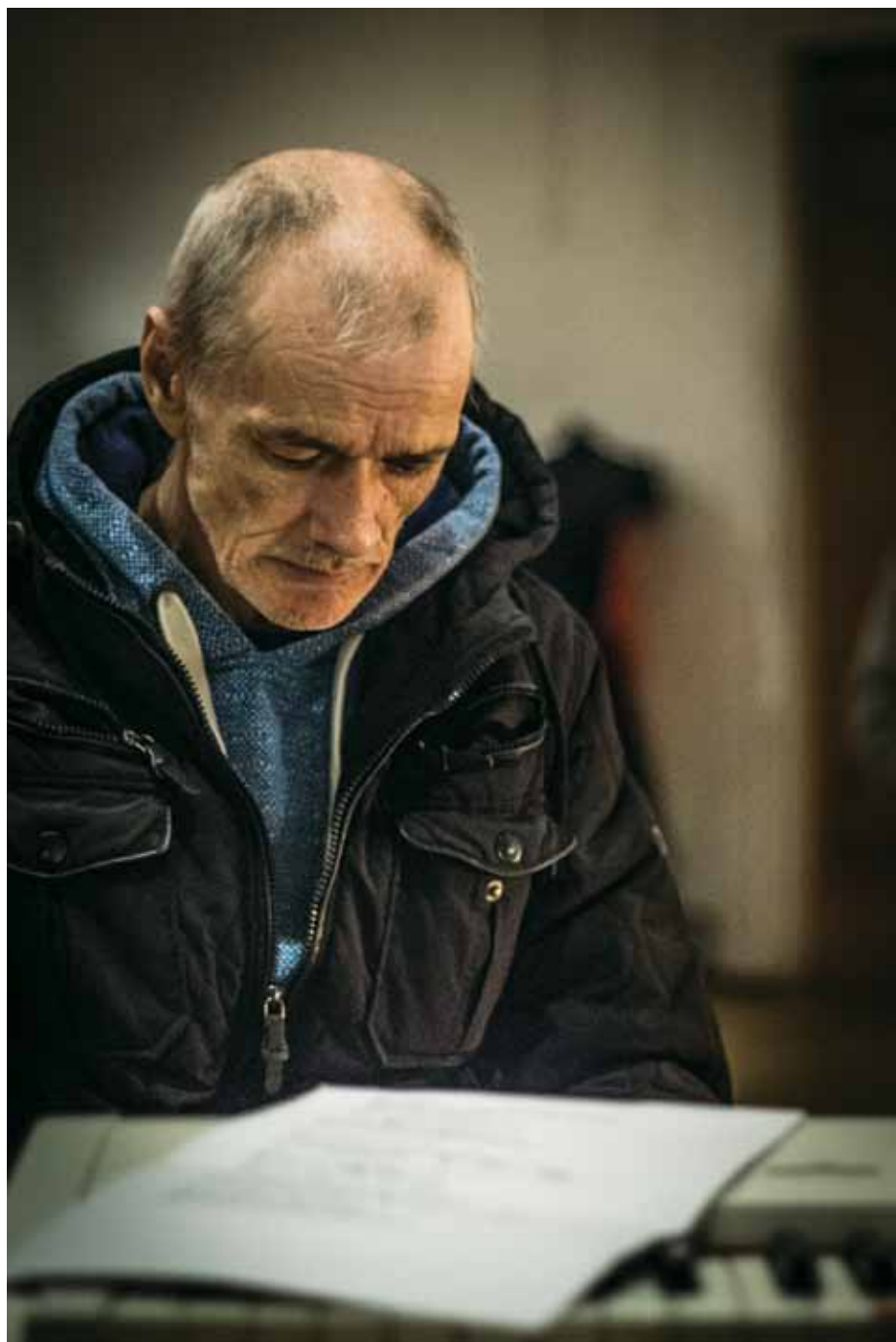


Sympathy is easy
Empathy a curse
Nothing you can say now
Would make things any worse

The ocean is the web
We are all the spiders



Grainy images
The cycle never ends
Them watching me
Me watching them



The clock spins, zero hour begins
This is the end, the end again
Here sits blank face and she spins my tale
I've stopped listening now I know that I'll fail



You're suspended, I'm up-ended... in time

Hold my hand and let me go
The things I know, I can't unknow



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