



Press Release November 2004

AccessArt's Immersive Learning Space – inspiring thousands of teenagers and teachers every week.

Award-winning AccessArt's new **Immersive Learning Space** has been enthusiastically received by teenagers and teachers across the globe, who log on to be inspired and stimulated by this richly visual and aural digital resource.

The online resource is the result of AccessArt's NESTA funded Immersive Learning Project which brought together teenagers and creative adults to explore the key question: **'When, where and how does learning happen best?'** The resulting **Immersive Learning Space** validates learning through 'active doing and seeing' and is packed with examples of learning at its most exhilarating.

The brainchild of artists and educators, Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli, the **Immersive Learning Space** uses the power of the web as a visual and aural tool to advocate the importance of time, space and place for creative action to take place in the physical world. It places inspiration over education, and searches for new models to engage and motivate the learner.

The success of the project stems from the instigation of partnerships between **'inspirers'** - creative adults – and **'explorers'** - creative teenagers. Through practical workshops and events beyond the school gates, brainstorming sessions, one-to-one conversations and finally the co-creation of the digital space itself, the process embraced a diverse range of practices, professions and shared interests. These included skateboarding, dance, sculpture, making, architecture, design, film, photography and short burst video.

The online **Immersive Learning Space** is not a linear, logical pack of lesson plans with reliable outcomes, but a dynamic collection of starting points, stimuli, considerations, processes and diversions with which schools, home-users and community groups can engage on their own terms. **It is a celebration of teenagers' creativity.**

The project has been funded by a Learning Award of £132,000 from NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), the organisation that backs UK creativity and innovation. AccessArt's work has also been supported by the Arts Council, England and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Further Information about AccessArt

AccessArt was established in 1999 by Paula Briggs and Sheila Ceccarelli, graduates of the Royal College of Art Sculpture School. As sculptors and educators, Paula and Sheila first started developing the AccessArt web site with a grant from the Department for Education and Skills. The site already contains a number of modular animated interactive online workshops which enable

38 Mill lane, Impington, Cambridge, CB4 9XN, 01223 520213
info@accessart.org.uk, www.accessart.org.uk

Supported by Nesta (The National Endowment for Science,
Technology and the Arts)



learners and educators to directly access ideas based upon artist-led teaching approaches. The site is very well used by pupils, teachers and home users across the UK and overseas .

AccessArt is a limited company with charitable status, currently supported by NESTA (The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts). The AccessArt site www.accessart.org.uk carries no advertisements and is available free to all users.

In 2002 AccessArt won the Guardian/Becta Educational Web Site Award, Whole Site award NGfL category.

Contact: Paula Briggs, Director, AccessArt, 01223 520213, paula@accessart.org.uk 38 Mill Lane, Impington, Cambridge CB4 9XN

Notes to editors

NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) investing in innovators and working to improve the climate for creativity in the UK.

Established in 1998 and set up with an endowment from the National Lottery (£200 million, raised in 2003 to £250 million), NESTA invests the interest to support UK innovation. Since May 2000, when the programmes first opened, NESTA has spent over £58m on programmes supporting 563 awards (figures to March 2004). Visit www.nesta.org.uk to find out more .

NESTA has a dedicated Media Room on its web site where news releases like this are easily available and where journalists can subscribe to receive any future releases. Other information, including high-resolution images to download and Communications contact details, are also available at www.nesta.org.uk/mediaroom