

PRESS RELEASE 15 APRIL 2008

THE PEOPLE'S CASTLE

Jane Lyster, Dover Arts Development's second commissioned artist, spent two weeks in Dover during early November working with people in Dover.

Her work evolved from the collection of mobile phone images from the public. Creating images used to be expensive and exclusive, but now everyone is able to create, store and print their images easily and relatively inexpensively and so we have become less precious about what we choose to record on camera. According to Jane Lyster *"many of us have now become artists; we walk around with tiny galleries of images in our pockets or handbags. Often these are not printed or even transported to a computer; they are carried around and shared with family and friends."*

This project embraces those unseen pictures and shares them with the town.

For Jane Lyster the vital ingredient of her work for Dover town centre is the trust and generous nature of total strangers. *"The assault course we live allows no room for mistakes, so to trust another human not known to ourselves is rare. The need to accumulate as much commercial wealth in our life span seems to be paramount to our existence. Then add the amount we are blasted with everyday about the untrustworthy world in which we live. The notion of us giving freely to someone we have never met is a real treat; this work needs to be viewed with that in mind."*

What the public will see in the town from 22 April is not the bricks of just any castle: it's a people castle and its strength comes from the trust given to the artist by each individual participant.

All the individual contributors will be meeting at 12 noon on 26 April in the Market Square for a group photo to celebrate their involvement in the project.

Note to Editors.

Jane Lyster lives and works in Eastbourne. She has over twenty years experience working as an artist in the community and for the last six years has worked with The Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, delivering workshops for socially excluded young people. In this practice she uses a range of media including mobile phones, clothes and cameras to produce text, sound, still and moving image projects with young people.

DAD Photography Commissions 07-08 invites artists to spend two weeks in Dover to research and produce a single large-format photographic image informed by the town. The image will substitute the public information posters normally on display in the ten freestanding signboards in Dover Town Centre.

DAD Photography Commissions 07-08 is part of Embarkation, Dover Arts Development's major programme of visual arts for Dover Town and District. It has been made possible by £85k from Arts Council England, South East and the European Union through the Interreg IIIA programme as well as the generous support of Dover businesses and public agencies.

Dover Arts Development - DAD
info@dadonline.eu www.dadonline.eu

Christine Gist Joanna Jones Clare Smith
christine@dadonline.eu joanna@dadonline.eu clare@dadonline.eu