

Caroline Cardus; Disabled Artist

After completing a Fine Art degree as a disabled person, I became more and more interested in what disabled people think about the world around them and their place in society.

I am best known for making work about things disabled people encounter in everyday life. I have been a practising artist since 1998 and now specialise in disability art projects.

I believe art can be a vehicle to explore these points of view and bring them to the attention of a wider audience. The phrase "Nothing about us without us" means a lot to me because when a piece of work seeks to represent the views of disabled people, it's vital that a lot of disabled people contribute their opinions and insight to the content of that work.

This is a continuing theme in my practice and I hope the residents of Andover appreciate the contributions and insights from the disabled community interwoven into The Lights – and find something in them that they can personally relate to.

Funding for Arts Projects

In 2006 when The Lights opened, Test Valley Borough Council made an application for funding to the Arts Council England, who awarded a total of £80,000 for art projects in Andover.

This funding helped this project with Caroline Cardus and also projects that saw the creation of The Light Tree at the entrance to the venue and The Light Wall positioned in the foyer, both by artist Malcolm Buchanan-Dick.



www.thelights.org.uk

Moon Language



At The Lights



The Moon Language project was developed in partnership with clients from the Enham Community and project led by Caroline Cardus

Moon language is an additional way; (sitting alongside the more familiar brail); by which the visually impaired can share information and be informed.

Working in collaboration with people from the Enham Trust; these “moon” statements have all been generated and stimulated within a series of creative workshop sessions. Sessions that spoke of inclusion and a shared passion for the nominated project theme: “Access for All”.

Please feel free to follow the trail; starting at the Box Office and walk clockwise passed the auditorium.



Box Office Counter

“Speak your mind – If you don’t ask you don’t get – Be happy”

Auditorium

Left door – **“Not just audiences, performers too”**

Right door – **“Be a part of something”**



Accessible Toilet

“We don’t bite – our wheelchairs might!”

Studio One

Left door – **“Make sure everyone can get through every door”**

Right door – **“We are all different and we all act and think differently”**



Dance Studio

Left door – **“We’re the next generation of super-heroes”**

Right door – **“I love to be on stage feeling the energy pass between me and the audience”**

Green Room

“Get bright – get under the stage lights”

Conference Room

“Everybody has things they cannot do – why do some of them have to be labelled?”

Board Room

“We understand every word we say”