

SNAPSHOT

Hugh Dichmont with highlights of what's on in December and January around the UK and beyond.

With a number of Winter fairs and open studios at this time of year, why not look to some local makers for unique gifts? At Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales, their annual 'Winter Craft Fair and Gift Fair' (until 6 January) features work from over eighty makers and artists, predominantly from Wales. Making Space, Havant, are hosting an 'Open Studio and Christmas Craft Fair', (3-4 December) where resident and guest artists exhibit and sell their work. Whilst in Edinburgh, Castle and Princes Street will be the site for 'The Real Scottish Christmas Fair' (3-8 December), and 'The Ethical Christmas Fair' (10-18 December); an event that actively supports Fairtrade, ethical and environmental traders and products produced in developing countries, as well as locally sourced goods.

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk

www.handupmedia.co.uk

www.makingspace.org

If the thought of Christmas makes you feel a little sick, then perhaps 'Action Art Now' could be of some cultural relief. A programme of live performance events curated by O U I Performance, York, it is defiantly described as "existing firmly outside of the institutional and commercial art market". The penultimate event (10 December) sees performances by three British and Irish performers. Currently on their winter break are students from the 'University of Incidental Knowledge'; a distance-learning project that explores the idea of knowledge acquired as an unexpected side-product of another activity. Students engage in coursework for their chosen subject (Diploma in Artwank, for example) and will be part of a group exhibition at the end of their final term. Another project using the internet as a medium for exchange is 'It's moving from I to It'. The first step of this fifteen-month nomadic project is an editable outline for a possible future script, which can be downloaded from the FormContent website.

www.ouiperformance.org.uk

www.universityincidentalknowledge.wordpress.com

www.formcontent.org

