

A photograph of a person's bare back and arm against a white wall. The person's arm is extended towards the center, with their hand resting on the wall. Faint pencil sketches are visible on the wall, including a hand and a face. The text 'The Bareback Museum' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters, and 'Rajay Shah' is overlaid in smaller, black letters below it.

# The Bareback Museum

Rajay Shah

# Introduction



*“When two surfaces rub together they leave a memory” - Tony Godfrey*

# Background to the Bareback Museum

- Social Enterprise
- Life drawing and performance workshop which explores the roles of exhibitionism, sexual health and intimacy and the relationship to bodies and institutions.



Miles Coote and Angela Hodgson-Teall

# Context

MOCA Art Gallery, Peckham

21st-22nd October

Audience:

- Open to the public
- Self-Selected Crowd



# Context

Day 1: 'Can I make a painting if I am too ill Mrs Aids'



Day 2: Acts of Mercy



# Context

Is drawing a useful visual thinking tool in the practise of empathy (thinking and feelings) in relation to intimacy, sexual health, and the development of AIDs memorials?



# Project Activities

Recording

Drawing

Putting the drawings up, discussing them, and imagining the future of an AIDS memorial

Collective Evaluation:

- Non-directed
- Non-intrusive



# Research Methodologies

Qualitative, loose and based in the social sciences

Unconscious - the only way of experimenting is through learning and doing as an audience

Queer Methodologies

“...queer ethics as method can get us toward a broader set of intimate possibilities.” Mathias Detamore

# Ethical Considerations

The politics of intimacy in researcher/researched relations

Discussions with the curators and organisers of each venue

Recording images of faces

Emotional disturbances caused by the content

Lego man - Audience participation without unwelcome intrusion or invasiveness

Intensity, frequency and duration of comments, as well as through the participation of the audience

# Preliminary Findings / Project outcomes

The potential of temporary Aids Memorials as drawings produced by audiences and the development of collective evaluations as part of the process.

How can this be developed further through a website, archive and live interactions with an audience?

Further questions:

- How relevant is an AIDS memorial in other countries, such as Kenya?
- What would the work look like with larger audiences?
- Working with other organizations?

# Thank you!

*“When two surfaces rub together they leave a memory” - Tony Godfrey*