



Huw Meredydd Owen

BSc BArch MA RIBA ARB RSA

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Words increasingly fail to express certain types of meaning, and I often see a significance in completely anomalous conjunctions. By working in an interdisciplinary way, in what is probably Henri Lefebvre's 'social space' I find that an undertaking can often be read in terms of a number of different paradigms - art, community, religion, contentment - "...and the greatest of these is Love".

Practicing where art and architecture merge, Huw uses his experience in placemaking to take a creative view of the world about us. He seeks to go to the source by using the creative process as a catalyst to release wider intentions and meanings, collaborating regularly with artists (most often with Pandora Vaughan as **V&O**) to reveal 'place' and its complexity.

He works in various fields where a creative reaction to 'place' makes a constructive difference, such as:

- community groups seeking to raise confidence and extend ownership
- layered interpretation through the medium of experience
- art motivated commissions that results in a new awareness of context
- a building owner seeking a re-reading of an existing building
- combination of a practical outcome and the continuation of a thematic development

Originally from Cardiff but with roots all over Wales, he now lives in Mynytho, Llŷn. He is a fluent Welsh speaker.

practice

In 1984 he established an architectural practice, Dobson:Owen, with Gareth Dobson in Pwllheli undertaking a wide range of work for a variety of client types. His work, over the years, was predominantly to do with community groups and enterprises, and a successful commission came increasingly to involve more than a practicable physical response to the brief.

Having increasingly undertaken projects that were on the cusp of art and architecture he took an MA in Art in Architecture (at UEL in 2000) where he met artists interested in working with architects. Here he met Pandora Vaughan with whom he has increasingly collaborated under the name V&O.

In 2011 he left the practice to focus entirely on work that is centred on the subjective side of architecture, where the idea of 'placemaking' and an experiential reaction plays well with confidence, ownership, exploration and significance. He continues to collaborate regularly with Pandora.

positions: visual arts

- 1985 - 1998 **Gweled:** member of Welsh language arts organisation, established to further the discussion, promotion and understanding of the visual arts in Welsh
- chair 1989-1993
- 1997 - 2006 **National Eisteddfod:** member of standing panel for visual arts of this annual national festival
- chair 1998-2006
- art and architecture scholarship assessor 2005
- architectural award assessor 2009
- 1996 - 2012 **Oriel Mostyn**, Llandudno: leading contemporary art gallery in Wales:
- chair of gallery council 2000-2010
- 1998 - 2003 **Oriel Glyn y Weddw**, Llanbedrog: board member; art gallery located in restored Victorian mansion

positions: community bodies

- 1989 - 1996 RIBA **community architecture group:** community projects fund for feasibility studies by architects on behalf community initiatives - application assessor: North Wales and Welsh language applications
- panel member (Wales)
- 1994 - 2008 **school governor**, Ysgol Botwnnog: named special needs
- 1994 - 2014 **Advisory Committee on Property** Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
member of the committee advising on the use and upkeep of buildings
- 1974 - forever **tenor saxophone:** blow away the cobwebs with this instrument and all is well again with the world

education

Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff (Dewi Prys-Thomas)

1978 BSc
1981 BArch
1982 RIBA pt.III

University of East London (Jane Riches)

2000 MA art in architecture

memberships

RSAW member
ARB 50303
RIBA 5564308
RSA fellow