

**Dance Connections: researching  
the experience of dance artists and  
elders with dementia and memory  
loss *working together***

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# Project Partners

Dance Art Foundation (London)

- [info@danceartfoundation.com](mailto:info@danceartfoundation.com)
- Artistic Director: Joe Moran

Coventry University (ICE, CeMAP, HDTI)

- Research Leader: Sarah Whatley
- Institute for Creative Enterprise
- Centre for Media, Arts and Performance
- Health & Design Technology Institute

# The Programme

- Artist development programme for dance artists in the West Midlands
- 9 months (July 2009-March 2010)
- Intensive blocks of training events
- Closely mentored teaching delivery in community settings for elders with dementia, memory loss and reduced mobility
- Dissemination event

# Research Methods

Participant Observation - Naama Spitzer

Navigating the Field:

- Guiding principles and questions
- Note taking (inside and outside)
- Photography
- Interviews with artists

# Reflections on method

- What to record?
- Embodied versus passive involvement.
- Value of note taking.
- Recording specific events and activities to illuminate the ethos.

# Analysis and Themes

- Embodied Space
- Translation and Adaptation
- Identity
- Language
- A model of exchange

# Project Outcomes and the Future

- Trust and wellbeing
- Synergies and differences between research methodologies
- Misunderstandings and misperceptions
- The value of dialogue in collaboration

# Artist: Holly Denoon







# Thank you

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