

APPENDIX THREE

Participant interviews

NOTE: All participants are called by their first names. Their surnames have been omitted to protect their identity.

April 1st 2003

- **Chillies¹**

Why do you come to these workshops?

I like this place because when I'm here I'm doing so many things. I'm doing art, I'm exercising. I come here because I love this place, because it make me know the bad things I used to do, like smoking, and making noise and running around this way and this way. That's why I love this place, because they teach me so many things. I didn't know how to make a frame and to draw my self I didn't know these things.

What else do you hope to learn by coming here?

I want you to teach me like the other things, I can't explain it.

Is there anything you want us to teach you when you come here?

To respect each other. To me that's all right, there is nothing better.

These workshops are going to run for one year, once these are finished, what do you want to do?

Maybe at the end of this year I will know a lot of things like painting, drawing, art and handwork. At the end of the year I'll get a certificate.

What do you think art is?

Art. Art maybe I can explain is to draw, maybe you can do some thing with your hands.

What do you like to do when you are not at these workshops?

I like to play soccer and gymnastics.

Where do you like to go in your free time?

To the park.

- **Lawrence**

Why do you come here?

To do art and to learn. So when I grow up I can do my own thing.

What would you like to learn here?

To respect you see, and to learn other things that I don't know.

What do you want to do once these workshops finish after a year?

I want to do Wood work.

What do you think art is?

Art is about doing things that are cultural also; it's about changing things to other things.

¹ Chillies was killed in a street fight in December 2003.

April 15th 2003

- **Solomon**

Why do you come here?

I like it; this is why I come here.

What do you want to learn when you come here?

I learn about those things we are making. I hear about those things that you tell us about. I learn these things.

What do you want to do once these workshops have finished?

I'm going to learn for a year all of the things you teach us. After I've finished to learn I want to make those things.

What things do you want to make?

I want to make some house for people, they can ask me to make something, like a job. People can give me a job; I know how to make some house.

What do you think art is?

Art gives me the mind to see what I'm doing. It makes me happy.

Have you done art before?

No.

What do you do for fun?

I like doing these things.

- **Sipho**

Why do you come to these workshops?

Because you've got to teach us you see. Once I know how to do these things I go learn from another people to do other things. I like these things.

What do you want us to teach you here?

To art make, to make a house, and a school.

Do you know what you want to do once these workshops come to and end after a year?

No I don't know.

What do you think art is?

Art? Art is like drawing a picture, a nice picture. When that picture is very nice and there are many pictures you have made, people can come and look and come and buy it.

Have you done art before?

Yes, in Hillbrow there.

At Twilight?

No, at Paradise. I was just drawing.

What do you like to do for fun?

Soccer.

What is your favourite place in Johannesburg?

Twilight. We eat there; they give us clothes there. We go to shower there. That's why I like Twilight.

April 22nd 2003

(Note: These interviews were conducted just as the construction project, where they built and laid out a city, was completed. The 'houses' that are referred to often during the course of the interviews are the ones they built during this project.)

- **Jan**

Why do you come here?

I'm coming here because I..... (*can't hear, voice becomes very indistinct*) my mother. This one is good, I like it.

What do you want to learn here?

I come from Sasolberg. I like you to teach us how to make some things. A house, because I don't like it to stay in the street.

What do you want to do once these workshops come to an end after a year?

I don't know.

What do you think art is?

I don't know.

Have you done art before?

Yes, at crèche.

What did you make?

I make a car, a truck.

What do you like to do when you have free time?

I play soccer, I play everything

What is your best place in Johannesburg?

Chelsea. I like it because I stay there.

- **Snake (Joseph)**

Why do you come here?

I'm coming here because it's nice to be here, we make some art, some practicals. I like to do art, singing. I come every week, even if I'm sick, I'm coming here.

What would you like to learn here?

Art. I want to know about art. Because when I was growing up I didn't do art. This is the first time I'm doing art. I like it.

What do you want to do once these workshops finish, in a year's time?

I'll come the whole year. Then I'll go home to Sharpville, in the Vaal Triangle.

What do you think art is?

Because this is my first time I can't tell you. I just make things

What do you like to do when you are not here?

I'm a dancer. I dance for people in the street and they throw for me the money.

What is your favourite place in Johannesburg?

Hillbrow. I like it because; it's not only Hillbrow, also Yeoville. I go to the nightclubs, there used to be competitions for the dancing. Then I enter competitions and I win, and even in Yeoville there are some

artists, who are singing, and I dance for them and they give them some money. That is why I like Hillbrow and Yeoville.

- **David**

Why do you come here?

Because I like art. So I can do something when I grow up.

What do you want to learn when you come here?

To make our house nice.

What do you want to do once these workshops end in a year's time?

I'd like to get a certificate.

And then?

I will go to look a job for art.

What do you think art is?

Art is...I don't know what art is.

Have you done art before?

No.

What do you like to do when you relax?

I would like to make these things (points to the constructions) and practice.

What is your favourite place in Johannesburg?

Hillbrow?

Why Hillbrow?

There people give us money, they give us clothes, they give us cosmetics to wash our selves.

- **Bennet**

Why do you come here?

I came here about that Monday, they calling me. There is nothing I'm doing when I'm not working with those vegetables, helping that mother. I'm helping in the morning and the afternoon, during the day there is nothing. I mustn't walk around the whole day; I don't know where I'm going. I mustn't go play soccer every day. At least it's better when I come here, it can make me happy. When I'm old I can say 'ja, that is my picture that one, that is my story'. Because I want to be famous one day.

What would you like to learn when you come here? Is there anything special you would like us to teach you?

Yes, you can teach me to make anything you want to teach me. Just to make some houses, and the cars also, I like to show the people what we do here.

These workshops are going to run for a year, what do you want to do when they are finished?

When I finish with the workshops I like to go back to technical training (indistinct, can't make out exactly what he says), I was making carpentry, a kitchen and all that yes. The driver, the transport, that's why he never come and pick us up.

(He clarifies later that he was doing the carpentry in Soweto, near Orlando station.)

What do you think art is?

Art is... I can say, it looks like an area (points to the constructed city on the floor) you see the houses. These houses look like other houses I can see somewhere nice. Art is also things like a drawing, we draw ourselves, and the houses like this one, some people also. It's many things, others I don't remember.

Have you done art before?

I try, but I never pass. Our teacher wasn't serious about those things; sometimes he would come sometimes not come. We went there by 8 o'clock. Half past 8 he never come. Then at 1 o'clock we going.

Did you make anything while you were at those other art classes?

I make a car.

Out of what?

Wire.

What do you enjoy doing?

I like to do the cars. On Tuesday I want to bring it and say how's this car? I can get happy for that car. I'll try to do it.

What is your favourite place in Johannesburg?

Hillbrow, Rosebank, Kensington, Bruma Lake. By Parktown I used to go there in the park when I'm tired, I used to go there. There's a mother there who gives me money for the food some money to buy something to wash with. *(Proceeds to tell about waking up and not being able to wash because they have taken out the pipes, speaks about all the noise there, the hammering, people taking out the pipes where he stays –the Chelsea Hotel, on the corner of Catherine and Soper roads, a building that is white and blue. The door is blocked up and there is a wall around it, they jump around the corner and get in a secret way. Speaks about getting food with his friends and cooking, polony, atcha.)*

May 13th 2003

(Note: These interviews were conducted as they were working with clay to make animal vessels.)

- **Thabiso**

Why do you come here?

I want to learn art, because I was doing art when I went to the other school, I want to continue doing art so that I can be able to get a job. I will be able to get sponsors and do a bit of art.

What do you want to learn here?

Anything. We did painting, drawing; I want to learn more about that.

What do you want to do once these workshops come to an end after a year?

It's not on my mind what I will be doing then.

What do you think art is?

Art is working with your hands and materials, all materials

You said you had done art before, where was this?

At school. I was at school in Kliprivier. We did something about pollution, we built a location like that, (points to the city on the floor they had constructed some weeks previously) but about pollution in the location.

How long ago did you leave that school?

Last year in the middle of the year.

Why?

There was no money for the schooling.

What do you like to do for fun?

I play soccer, at Shangane Park in Hillbrow.

What is your best place in Johannesburg?

Carnival city. My father took me there when I was young. And I went this year again to watch (indistinct, can't make out what he says) when I was at home with my brothers and sisters.

So do you go home sometimes to see your family?

Yes, but they don't like me.

- **Solly**

Why do you come here?

I come here because I like to learn. I like those things I make here, because it's very nice.

What would you like to learn here?

I want to learn anything.

What do you want to do once these workshops finish, in a year's time?

Yes, I want to go off the street. I like some job, any job.

What do you think art is?

I don't know.

Have you ever done art before?

No.

What do you like to do when you are not here?

I'm parking some car; I like to get some money.

What do you like to do for fun?

I don't like to be in the street anymore. I like to work, the cars.

What is your favourite place in Johannesburg?

My favourite place is the shelter. I like it because they are the ones who make me to come here, to learn other things.

July 29th 2003

(Spoke to people about their body tracings)

This is the 4th Body tracing session. The session began with everyone speaking about his or her family; this went on for a long time. They were encouraged to tell their stories about their families etc. with small drawings around the outside of their body tracing. Some people are today still working on their actual body tracing, clothes etc.

- **Bennet**

Q: Can you tell me about your drawing?

A: I like my drawing. I just like all these colours. I draw a railway line and a train also. When I come to Jo'burg I used to take the train, when I go home also I use the train. When I go to Bruma Lake I take the train there also, I jump off at Kensington station. Wherever when I'm going I'll take the train, but when I'm going somewhere I can also take a taxi or I can walk myself, go with my legs.

I want to still finish up with this drawing. I'm just sitting here thinking what must I still do, what must I write about my story.

- **Solly**

Q: Can you tell me about your drawing?

A: I make a sun; I make a house for me. Even now, I now start making a house.

Q: Is that where you would like to live one day?

A: Yes, my bucket also, I can use it to put some water to my garden. There is a tap there with a pump, that one is for outside, but also in the house I've got a pump. You see I want to clean nicely in my garden. I like it.

- **Siphiwe**

Q: Can you tell me about your drawing?

A: (Nkosana translating) I am in the tracksuit I was wearing when I started this. That's the Jamaican flag and the SA flag.

Q: Did your tracksuit actually have Nike written on it?

A: Yes.

And that's a Christmas tree, representing Christmas fever, buying presents and things like that.

- **Sipho**

Q: Can you tell me about your drawing?

A: (Nkosana translating) I like black clothing, that's why it's like this. I am creating some new clothes on top of this body.

- **Seun**

Q: Can you tell me about your picture?

A: You see my jacket and my gloves; I hold the money and a gun, trousers.

Q: Why have you got a gun?

A: (Nkosana translates) The gun is to protect the money. That's the security part of it (indicates the right hand side of the drawing), underneath there is a dog, so I can send the dog to catch whoever takes my money, then I can shoot. That is the transport that I came with, a train, that's me running towards the train so I can come to town.

Q: What about the tree?

A: It's to rest with my dog under.

- **Phumlani**

Q: Can you tell me about your drawing?

A: That is the goalkeeper for soccer. I love this thing; it's beautiful. I like these colours. It's from the Matrix.

Q: Did you watch the matrix?

A: Yes, there at Steers we see lots of movies.

August 12th 2003
(Clay –animal vessels)

Justine & Nkosana facilitating

The following I recorded during our ending off discussion where participants were asked to speak about what they liked about making animal vessels from clay and also what they wanted to learn to make from clay in the future. Most of this discussion was conducted in their mother tongue, so Nkosana was translating for me.

What they enjoyed about working with clay this session

Phumlani: I want to teach this clay, I want to learn to teach in grade A these things I have learnt here.

Bennet: I'm very happy about what we are doing. This is my second time doing this thing. I feel good because its another method that I'm using although I get difficulty here and there; the head was very difficult and then Nkosana helped me to pinch it. He didn't make it all, he just show me how to do it, and then I just continued doing that head and that is the head of my animal and I'm very happy. And me tomorrow, I want to go and teach the same kind of thing that I'm learning here, so God help me.

Siphiwe: What I'm happy about is that this is the first time I'm working with clay, using my fingers. And the thing that I made is successful and I'm very happy about it.

David: I'm very happy, I made that snake. I'm very happy, that's all I can say.

Things that people want to learn to do with clay in the future

Phumlani: Wants to paint the clay vessels.

Solly: Are we going to sell what we are making?

Xolani: We mustn't keep it in our minds that we are here to do things so we can sell it. Rather we are here to learn, so lets have that mind that we are here to learn things not so we can sell it at the end of the day.

Seun: Wants to make wire cars.

Bennet: Wants to make a house out of clay.

October 7th 2003
(The following interviews were conducted during a hat construction session)

- **Siphiwe**

Why do you keep coming to these workshops?

I come here because I want to learn a lot of things. I want to learn to do art.

Are you enjoying yourself at the workshops?

Yes, I'm enjoying myself.

What is the best thing you have done here? Your most favourite?

It was those animals we were working with.

You mean the clay ones or the masks?

The clay.

Why was this your best?

At the end of the term I want to take that thing and give my parents.

How often do you visit your parents in Vereeniging?

I was going home in March.

Have you done anything here that you have not enjoyed?

No.

Do you enjoy working in a group with all these other people?

Yes.

Are you friends with any of them other than when you come here?

Yes.

Is there anything else you want to say?

Ja. Me I want to say, I want to continue to come here, I want to show my parents what I can do.

- **Sibongile** (Nkosana is translating)

Why do you come here week after week?

I'm here to learn and save myself from street life.

What do you want to learn here?

Science, like at school.

What about art? Making things with your hands?

I like handwork too.

What have you enjoyed the most of all the things we have done here?

The drawings, the body tracings. Actually everything.

Do you like working with the rest of the group?

Yes.

Do you know these people in the group well?

We meet at Twilight everyday at 2pm for lunch.

Is there anything else you would like to say about what we do here?

I'm thankful for everything that I've made here; because that's the first time I've made such things. I'm safe from the troubles on the street here and everything that is happening around there.

- **Xolane 2**

Tells long story about bad homelife. Mother re-married, stepfather doesn't like him, mother drinking etc. Says how all he really wants to do is finish school, has completed up until gr 10. "I don't like staying at home, and I don't think I'll go back."

Are you happy living in Hillbrow?

I'm very much happy, I have no trouble; I'm just making money. But there is some problem with other people. They keep on bugging me. But what is going on I'm happy, it's my life. Looking back at my background, I'm not going back. The problem is people think things, they don't know about my life.

Speaks about how he wants to go back to school, but how people at the shelter don't help him. Says how he's tired of them.

Are you enjoying coming here?

Oh yes, each and every second. Actually I'm not bored when I'm here, it's just that I'm thinking about my life. But being here also makes me happy because I don't think too much. Sitting like this I'm doing my thing, thinking how can I make my hat. I'm not bored.

Are you friends with any of these people?

They call me Jha Man.

Are you a Rasta?

I'm a Rasta, but I eat meat.

(...He goes on quite a bit about how he doesn't like to talk much, the problems he's having with other people, how Twilight does not help him. Can't exactly make out all the words from the tape recorder.

What have you enjoyed the most since you've been coming here?

Drawing, I like all the things. I don't mind anything. It keeps my mind off things on the street, because when I'm out there, I'm always thinking about what I'm going to do and what what. But when I'm here I'm doing things, I'm working.

- **Benett**

Why do you keep coming here every week?

I keep coming here because I like to come here. This morning I was asking myself, I was telling the boys --you know where is my mind guys? They say, no, they don't know, I tell them, --my mind is in that job we doing there by the museum. I'm always thinking about this job. When it's a Tuesday my mind is coming here in the hall, I don't worry about other things. I'm asking myself which job are we going to do today. I must take my time and do it properly, I mustn't hurry for nothing. I can be hurried, but I must see what I'm doing.

Miscellaneous quotes from participants 2003-2004

'We can't work with the smell of glue coming from other people'. Solly –Participant

'When I first came here to the museum and saw IMBALI I thought my dream of doing art is going to come true.' Lawrence –Participant

'When I first came here I saw some whites and thought they will give us money, then I realised that they can teach me something. Siphiwe –Participant

The first time I came here I thought I'd found a job where I would work and earn money. Then I learnt to make so many things.' Jan -Participant

'I want to have a future, I want to work with my hands, somebody must help me, then I will go home (Sebokeng) and live with my mother.' David – Participant

'I enjoy everything that I'm doing here, I like everything, there is nothing I don't like' Sipho – Participant

'I want to build Park Lane Hotel. You can come here with your parents to enjoy yourself. There is a swimming pool on the roof.' David - Participant

Lehlogonolo (Lucky)

'This is my restaurant one day. I dream about this.'

Michael

'I'm making a house. One day I was driving by Sandton and I saw this house. I would like to live here.'

Bafana

'I'm making a mkhukhu (shack). In my location I stay in a makhukhu.'

Bongani

'This is Johnsons Building. This is where we live, I like this place.'

Prince

'I'm making a flat and a house, I want to call it home affairs flat.'

Sipho

'I'm making my house; I will live here one day.'

Vuyani

'I'm making the white house.'

Siyabonga

'This is my house; I would like it to be in Bertrams.'

Thabiso

'I make this church. I like God. It's called Roma church. I'm a bishop, bishop Mashiane.'

Bokang

'This is a church, I love this one.'