

Equal Exposure



Equal Exposure A Civic Conversation

## Artist statement

In creating a visual response to the Civic Conversation in Glasgow, I tried to capture some of the wise musings, good ideas and insightful comments of participants. I also wanted to portray some of the attitudes expressed in language including body language.

Besides attending the main discussion sessions, I came to the special lectures and took part in some of the smaller seminars. I also always visited the Glasgow Botanical Gardens and walked and rode buses around many parts of the city. I made drawings, cutouts, and photos along the way and added words that I heard or gathered later from the Conversation reports.

Jennifer Williams

Artist-in-residence, Civic Conversation Glasgow Centre for Population Health

2007

PEOPLE PEOPLE

# Why engage in Civic Conversation?

The idea of civic conversation in the City was first mooted by the philosopher Anthony Grayling when presenting the opening lecture in the Glasgow Centre for Population Health seminar Series in November 2004. Central to the idea of civic conversation is that it opens up dialogue for the multiple perspectives which combine to make a community. Grayling introduced this through the idea of the 'polis', a more or less integrated, self aware community of people identifiable at least in part by its shared ethos and values.

The relevance of this in Glasgow is pressing. As Glasgow emerges from its 20th century identity we are presented with a unique opportunity to ask what its purpose is in the 21st.

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Civic, adj., of or pertaining to a city.
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If we have health as part of the ethos of the city, then what policies and actions ought we develop to make this apparent and explicit. A civic conversation explores aspirations and possibilities for worthwhile action to ensure that both Glasgow and Glaswegians flourish. The basic premise underlying the civic conversation is that the way a community talks to itself, how it forms its values, beliefs and policies ultimately influences how it behaves.

## CONVERSATION,

noun, the speaking of two or more persons alternately with each other.

Such a conversation offers an additional way to help find ways to improve health in Glasgow in a world which changes rapidly in complex and often uncertain ways. It offers those with a stake in the future of the city a different context in which to meet and discuss issues of strategic importance and how these might be effectively addressed. Some of these will be based upon existing knowledge and concerns; others will emerge through the conversation as it develops.

## CIVIC CONVERSATION:

a process by which diverse groups in a city work together to identify its aspirations, discuss its possibilities and realise its potential!

The civic conversation provides space for input from stakeholders, experts, non-traditional and even maverick views. It offers the hope of a city robust and effective in the face of uncertainty and change, not merely surviving in the 21st century but thriving in it.

It represents an attempt to integrate the multitude of seemingly unrelated, apparently chaotic factors which turn up in the everyday life of the City into a number of coherent, internally consistent perspectives and narratives about the city and the wellbeing of its citizens. The promise it holds is that we come to see and make fresh connections between the various aspects of life in the city and beyond and by so doing, become more effective than otherwise might be the case.

Through the civic conversation we discover where our understanding of the situation is incomplete, we uncover new possibilities, and we develop new insight and enhanced understanding, making more effective action possible.

Following a series of over fifty individual conversations with city leaders, we began the civic conversation in 2007. This took the form of three well facilitated half day sessions designed to help answer questions of purpose for Glasgow in the 21st century. Each session included participants from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. Each participated in the conversation equally, as concerned and interested individuals who brought experience, irrespective of rank, to the effort. This quality of the civic conversation gives rise to the title of this volume.

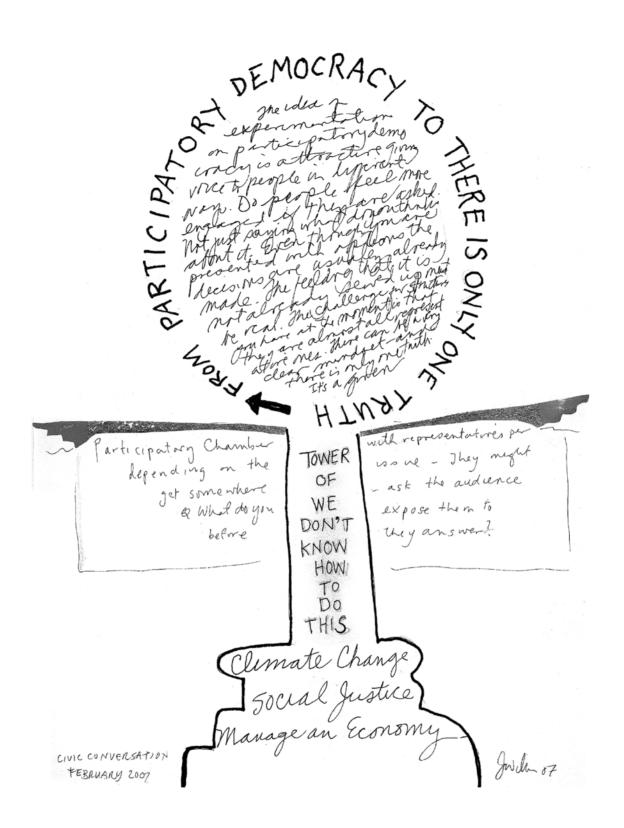
These sessions were augmented by a series of smaller group meetings on demand: scenario planning, an elderly forum, professional interest and young people's groups.

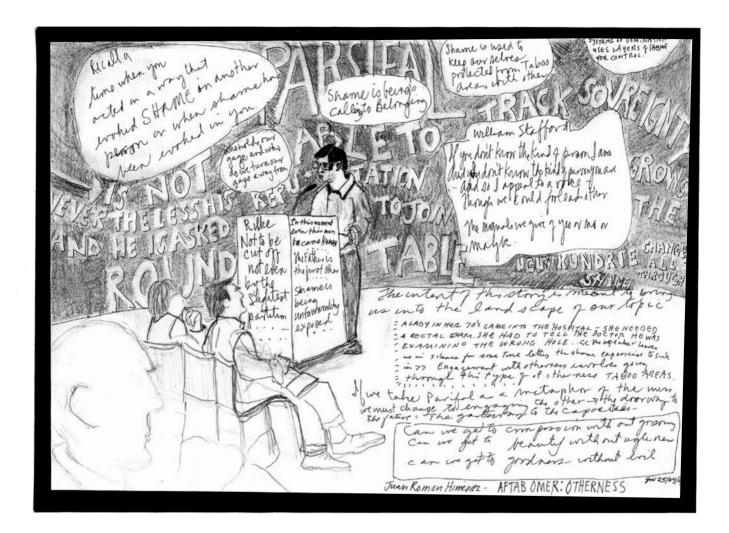
Since we were embarking on an endeavour which hoped to understand the City through a different means, we thought it important to reflect this in our recording and reporting of activity. To reflect our interest in multiple ways of understanding the City we engaged an artist in residence to capture aspects of the conversation visually. Other outputs include a DVD called Miniature Glasgow and a report which describes more fully the issues raised in the conversation.

It is our hope that you will find these images a pleasing, helpful, immediate way into the issues and questions with which we all must grapple as the century unfolds.

The civic conversation continues to be a part of an active collaboration between the Glasgow Centre for Population Health and the International Futures Forum. The conversation is for the long term and so in some senses we have only just started.

If you wish to participate in the conversation, or comment on this volume or give us feedback about how you are using it, or are simply curious, you will find contact details on the inside back page. It would be good to hear from you.



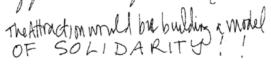


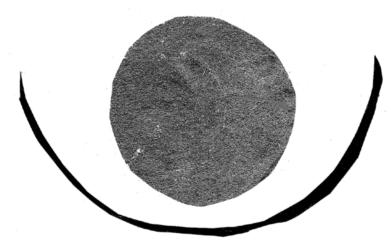
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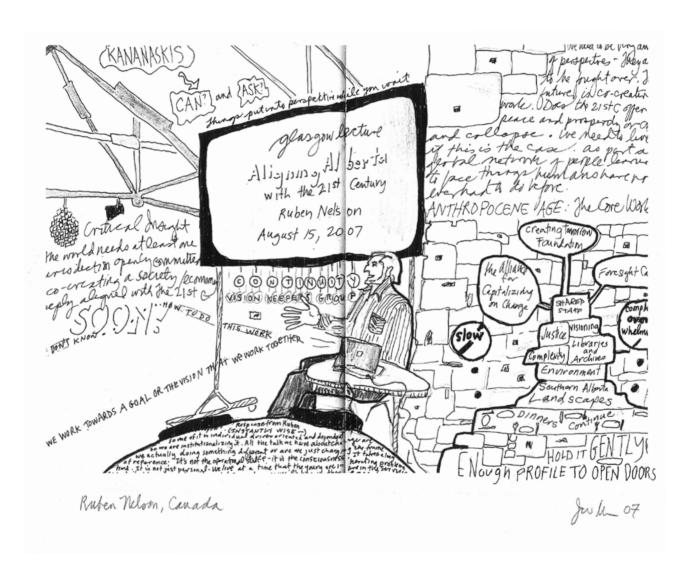








CIVIC CONVERSATION, FEBRUARY, 2007







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# NEGATIVE FRAMEWORK

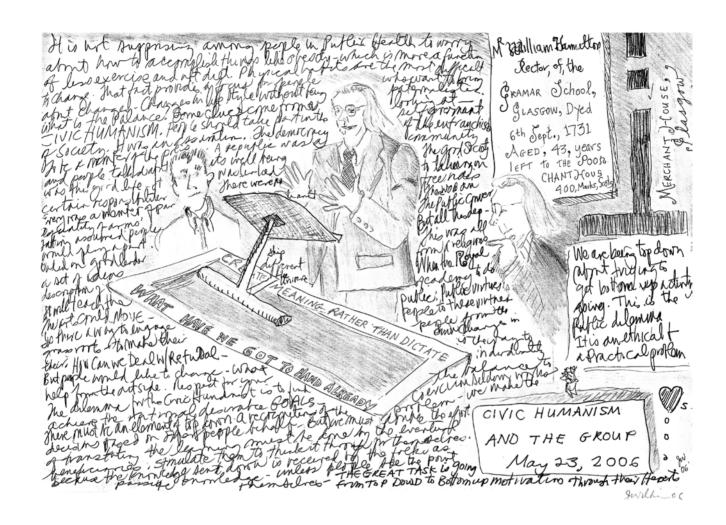


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# POSITIVE FRAMEWORK

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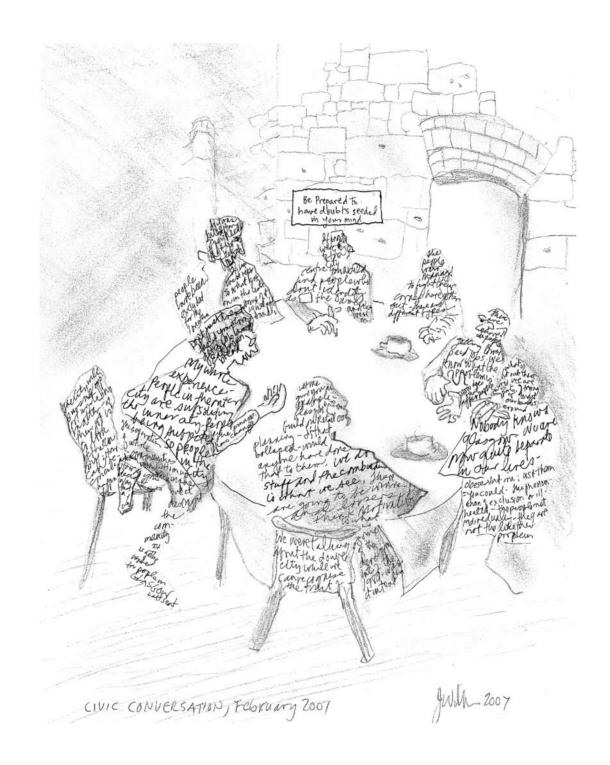






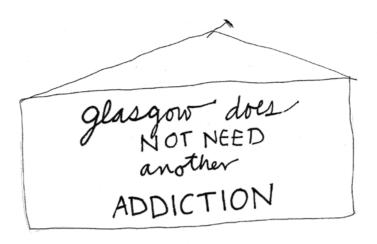




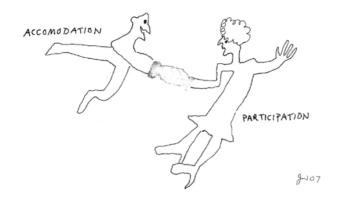


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