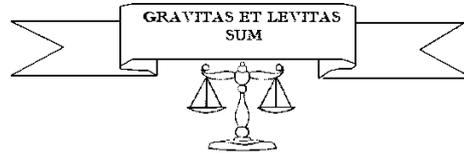


## Higher Academy of Happiness



The **Higher Academy of Happiness** was the curator of new interdisciplinary research on the good life through experiments with artworks and live art events. The study borrowed the management tool of 'Key Performance Indicators' from government and business organisations to investigate whether art can shed any light on the quality of life, and how it can be measured. The research was carried out to support the Kingdom of Bhutan, currently seeking new ways to assess a society's effectiveness through Gross National Happiness (GNH).

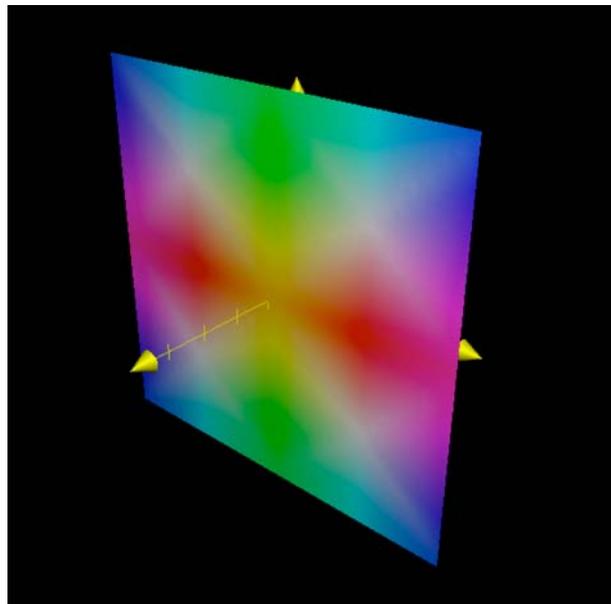
The Academy brought together five contemporary artists based in Cornwall to explore the feel good and feel bad factors in the quality of life through the different creative standpoints of jazz music, sound art, movement improvisation, glasswork, film and installation. The artists were Rae Chapman, Davina Kirkpatrick, Noel Perkins, Caroline Schance and Larry Stabbins.



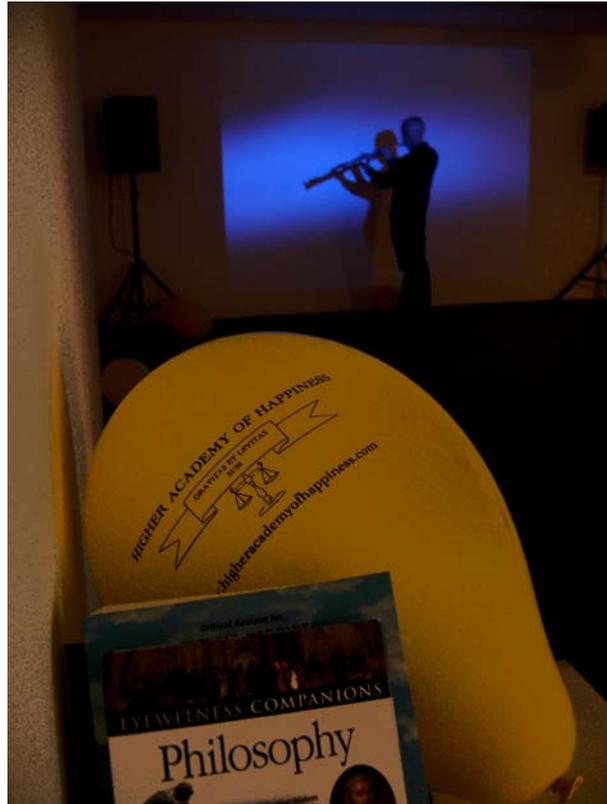
**Recipes for the Good Life** (2008) corporate balloons, yellow paper, pen, breath, people. Members of the public were invited to write down their recipe for the good life on yellow slips of paper, fold the paper, insert it into an academy balloon, inflate it and tie a knot in it.



**Sweet Spot** (2006) Film and sound installation by Rae Chapman. The moment at a wake when everyone laughed.



**x=1** (2008). Animated film by Rae Chapman. 3D animated graph visualising the magnitude of the happiness problem, and when less becomes more.



**White Queen Psychology remix** (2008) by Larry Stabbins. Saxophone and Reaktor. New work to expose core feel good/feel bad factors from new album, Stonephace, with key philosophical readings on good life as soundtrack. Film by Rae Chapman.



**Stonephace plays Live at the Academy** (2008). Avant-garde jazz, banner, balloon, blackboard and chalk. Larry Stabbins and Higher Academy of Happiness.



**Mapping the Quality of Life** (2008) - blackboard, film, movement.  
Noel Perkins and Caroline Schanche, members of public, Higher Academy of Happiness.  
Homage to Joseph Beuys.



**Quality of Life Impressions – Blue** (2008) Glass and film.  
Clear cast and etched glass by Davina Kirkpatrick held in suspense awaiting regeneration.  
Film by Rae Chapman.



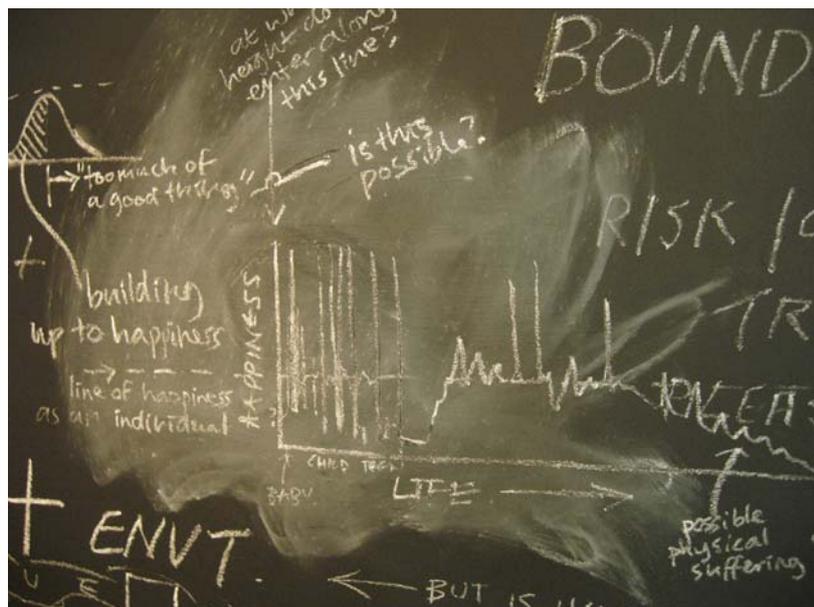
**Happening at the Academy** (2008) – movement improvisation, glass, film, sound, public.  
Live art event experiment in synthesising and presenting data from cooperative inquiry. Noel Perkins, Caroline Schanche, Larry Stabbins, Davina Kirkpatrick, Rae Chapman.



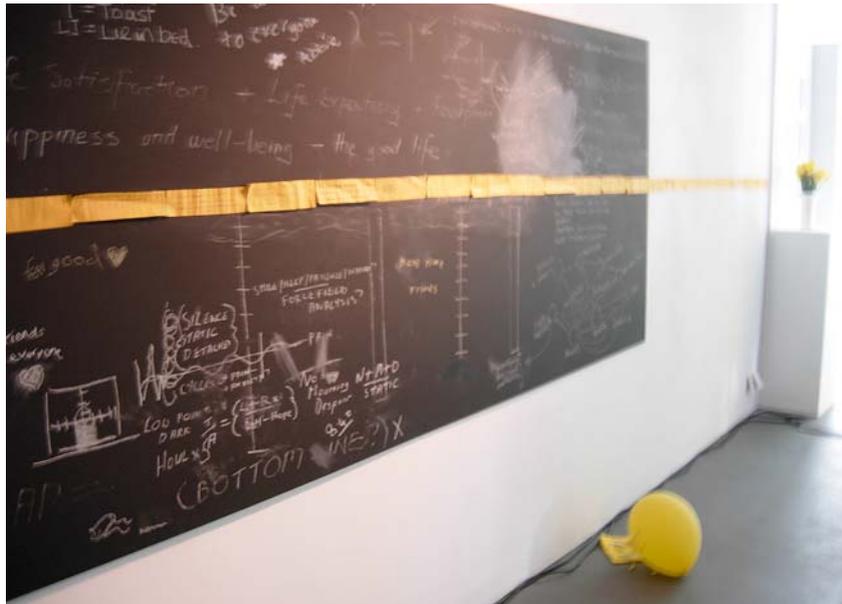
**Mentor Online** (2008) – mentor and mentees, MacBook Pro, Skype.  
Live video conference with curatorial mentor, Dr. Becky Shaw to establish curator job description, targets and performance review mechanisms that measure levels of success.



**Love - In at Newlyn Art Gallery (2008)** – girl, pen, paper, corporate balloon.  
 Girl writing recipe for the good life to be inserted into balloon before inflating and adding knot.



**Feel Good/Feel Bad Data (2008)** – blackboard, chalk, public.  
 Public perceptions of key criteria and flux relating to well-being were recorded as part of ongoing inquiry.



**Bottom Line in Yellow** (2008) – blackboard, chalk, corporate balloons, Cornish daffodils, recipes for the good life.

Recipes for the good life collected as durational public artwork were released during the curatorial review on the final day of the exhibition. A yellow paper trail of new data formed a continuous line around the entire gallery space as the last trace of this cycle of inquiry into the good life.

The **Higher Academy of Happiness** offers a model for learning on how to improve the quality of life. The Academy uses the arts and art events as a toolkit to promote dialogue and reflective practice on well-being.

Thank you for your contribution.