

FIVE YEARS: CODE OF PRACTICE. DRAFT.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

**OPEN: 1-6PM SAT & SUN
25 & 26 SEPTEMBER 2021**

*** FIVE YEARS**

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**I Draft. Code of Practice: Five Years
Sat-Sun 1-6pm 25 & 26 September 2021**

To whom it may concern. I'll try and be clear.

This is a draft proposal. An open invitation to anyone. You. To participate. To contribute to a series of recorded discussions/conversations, in the space at Five Years (25-26 September 2021 Sat & Sun 1-6pm). And for you to take part, share, in the subsequent transcription, editing and arrangement of recorded material. As publication.

It is a proposal calling upon Five Years to open up. To disclose something of the discussions that we/they were having last year while in lock down. To openly re-examine, question, and make seen, the decision-making process of how Five Years operates. Could operate.

This is a proposal for drawing up a prospective working **code of practice** for Five Years. As an artists' organisation. As a self-constituted practice in free association. An opportunity to work out how 'membership' and 'participation' in Five Years can be openly addressed: Our principals of organisational co-operation. As collaborators, co-creators, interlocutors. As artists. As equals.

It's very short notice I know, but just in case you might be interested/ available to contribute... please let me know *.. or just turn up at Five Years (25-26 September 2021 Sat & Sun 1-6pm).

Please pass this on to anyone who might be interested. Whether this leads to a radical redrafting of a twenty three year practice remains to be seen.

Edward Dorrian (Five Years)
21 September 2021

* info@fiveyears.org.uk

Covid protocols apply.

II Participation in:

- 1 An open discussion/ conversation staged and recorded at Five Years that aims to draw up a co-authored 'code of practice' publication, for Five Years.**
- 2 The disclosure of the editing/ decision-making process. i.e. The subsequent transcription, editing and arrangement of the recorded material. As publication.**
- 3 A co-authored and published 'code of practice' for Five Years.**

III Concerns: Ethical

Informed consent from participants/collaborators through appropriate means. (See Informed Consent Form). All participation is voluntary.

Recognising that informed consent should be negotiated, understood, and agreed fully by participants/collaborators.

Informed consent is a process that acknowledges ongoing checks on participants/collaborators agreement to confidentiality, privacy. Participants can withdraw from participation at any point throughout and after the project process. With immediate effect.

Each participant/collaborators' contribution, the data recorded, can only be shared with full, informed, and updated consent. No dissemination or sharing of participatory contribution material, data, recordings, transcriptions can be made without prior and full acknowledgment and consent.

IV Concerns: Copyright, intellectual property

Each participant/collaborator retains Author copyright and editorial control over their own participatory contributions. Copyright for publication and material intellectual property reside with both Five Years and participating Authors.

Each participant/collaborators' contribution, the data recorded, its dissemination and storage, remains the copyright and intellectual property of the participant/ collaborator and can only be shared with full, informed, and updated consent. No dissemination or sharing of participatory contribution material, data, recordings, transcriptions can be made without prior and full acknowledgment and consent.

V. Recorded Discussion. Proposed schedule (draft

Saturday 25 & 26 September 2021, Saturday - Sunday 1 - 6pm.

13:00 DISCUSSION PRIOR TO RECORDING

This draft proposal's ethical, political, aesthetic and copyright issues regarding recording discussion in relation to the collective/ collaborative process of co-authoring a code of practice.

13:30 START RECORDING (when agreed)

with brief discussion of the project as:

- 1 An open recording and transcription of discussion and conversation at Five Years. The subsequent transcription, editing and arrangement of recorded material. As publication.
- 2 A disclosure (publication) of the decision-making/editing process of the contributing material for publication (including any agreed correspondences - as a matter of practice)
- 3 A co-authored, published code of practice document for Five Years.
What should the publishable outcome/s be?
(Exhibition, statement of code of practice, artifact, film, paintings, newsletters, records, performances, reading groups, recitals, posters, text/s, etc)

4 Points for discussion/ conversation (please add to)

- **What do we mean by code of practice?** ¹
- **Why do we think it is necessary for Five Years to make/review/examine a working code of practice at this present time? Is it necessary?**
- **Who/What can or cannot practice as/in Five Years?**
- **How can Five Years draw up such a code of practice? In practice?**
- **What might that look/sound like?**
- **How can anyone participating, withdraw consent and copyright during this collaborative project?**
- **How can any of this be changed, challenged, contested?**

1 [OED definition: code of practice n. a set of rules or guidelines that sets out agreed standards of behaviour or proper practices for a particular]... [organisation. Member organisations generally undertaking to comply with the codes of practice as a condition of membership...]

5. Points for discussion/ conversation concerning Five Years public statements² that already define to some extent, how Five Years thinks it works.

- i. From the outset Five Years intention has been to maintain a long-term working context and physical environment guided by **principals of organisational co-operation**, while supporting the sometimes conflicting drives of creative autonomy, artistic collaboration, dialogue and the exchange of ideas.
- ii. To an extent it has functioned as a sustained experiment in whether individual artistic agency and dissenting perspectives on cultural production can be supported in an open and non-competitive structure.
- iii. Over the course of more than two decades it has functioned without individual directorship or regular funding, operating in the zones of marginality and precarity.
- iv. Its continued existence is as much about its ethics as its activities, which have a symbiotic relationship to one another.
- v. Five Years defines itself as an artists' organisation rather than an artist-run organisation: its purpose is to facilitate, support and make public its members' projects and by extension the projects of those artists invited by its members to contribute to the programme [where programming would maintain a direct relationship to practice.³]- the physical gallery space is a shared resource, a tool rather than a gallery 'run' by the artist in the role of curator or director.
- vi. Five Years intention is not to play a secondary or supportive role to the commercial or established institutional sectors, as a 'springboard' for so-called 'emerging' artists: it has endeavoured to create an environment where serious experimentation and artistic development can be sustained over long periods of time with relative autonomy.
- vii. Five Years is a Registered Charity.⁴

Activities: Gallery programme: delivery of a contemporary visual arts programme of exhibitions and events, in the process commissioning new work, developing opportunities for artists and audience while also presenting associated critical debate. Free and open to the public. Continued provision of affordable cost-price studios through the studio programme. Continued development of an education, research and resource programme (freely accessible to the public), beyond the gallery space (off-site and online projects) and through Five Years function as a publisher and distributor.

2

<http://www.fiveyears.org.uk/archive2/pages/255/1000Years/255.html>

3

<http://www.fiveyears.org.uk/archive2/info.html>

4

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regId=1151017&subId=0>

6. What are Five Years' principals of organisational co-operation?

STOP RECORDING (when agreed)

Repeat Sunday 26 September 2021, Saturday - Sunday 1 - 6pm.

VI. DRAFT Informed Consent Form for participating in the event/project [Five Years Code of Practice]

1. Taking part

I have read and understood the information dated [__/09/2021], or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the event and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Yes No

I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this event and understand that I can withdraw from the event at any time, without having to give a reason.

Yes No

I understand that taking part in the event involves

[The recording of discussion, its subsequent transcription, editing, and future publication, with my editorial involvement in these processes This may include any correspondences understood and recognised to be directly relevant as part of the continuing development of the project, eg Acknowledged and pre-agreed lines of communication, specific email threads, etc]

I understand that taking part in the event has no potential risk to myself.

Yes No

2. Use of the information in the event

- I understand that information I provide/contribute will be used for [a future published work, book, exhibition, artifact] Yes No
- I understand that personal information collected about me that can identify me, such as my name or where I live, will not be shared beyond the event co-ordinators/publishers (Five Years). Or without my consent. Yes No
- I agree that my information/contribution can be quoted in future publication outputs. Yes No
- I agree that my real name can be used for quotes. Yes No
- All copyright for my own participation/contribution remains with me (author and co-author with Five Years) Yes No

3. Future use and reuse of the information by others

I give permission for the [data] that I provide to be deposited with [Five Years] so it can be used for future research and learning.

4. Signatures

Name of participant [IN CAPITALS]

Signature

Date

For participants unable to sign their name, mark the box instead of signing

I have witnessed the accurate reading of the consent form with the potential participant and the individual has had the opportunity to ask questions. I confirm that the individual has given consent freely.

Name of witness [IN CAPITALS]

Signature

Date

I have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant and, to the best of my ability, ensured that the participant understands to what they are freely consenting.

Name [IN CAPITALS]

Signature

Date

5. Contact details for further information

Edward Dorrian

Five Years

info@fiveyears.org.uk