

Jan Nimmo

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Statement

I am a Glasgow based artist and filmmaker.

My work has focused on themes of community, the dignity of labour, big business and ecology.

My aim is to tell stories that draw attention to social, environmental and ethical issues through personal narrative, artworks and action.

Education

- 1984 Glasgow School of Art: BA Hons. Printed Textile Design.
- 1985 Glasgow School of Art: Post-Graduate Diploma.
- 1995 Certificate in Spanish Studies (Advanced): University of Glasgow. Fluent in Spanish
- 2004 Certificate in Web Authoring: Glasgow College of Building and Printing.

Awards and Residencies

- 2008 Best Short Environmental Documentary Award for "Pura Vida?" at CINESTRAT, Alicante, Spain
- 2006 Best Documentary Award for Bonita: Ugly Banana, Deep Fried Film Festival, Scotland.
- 2005 Scotland UnLtd Award for Green Gold Project.
- 2003 FENACLE (Federation of Small Farmers, Agro-industrial Workers and Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador) Award for Solidarity – for work documenting the Los Alamos Plantation workers' strike in 2002.
- 1993 Four month residency: Delfina Trust, Casa Manilva, Spain.
- 1984 Weavers Prize: Glasgow School of Art.

Filmmaking & Screenings

- 2011 Filming trip to Cameroon, Central Africa to film banana workers' testimonies. Editing testimonies for Make Fruit Fair – online shorty and developing a video wall installation with the material.

Pura Vida screening at "The World on Your Plate" travelling film festival, Poland.

Working in collaboration with Iñigo Garrido/OaksBark on video training workshops – piloted at Unison's Mobilise Festival Edinburgh. Also with OaksBark; developing intergenerational animation projects.

Finalising La Chacina de la Suerte – a film about slow food in La Sierra de Huelva, Southern Spain.
- 2010 Premiered The Road to Dumlemen, a 50 minute documentary, at The Campbeltown Picture House – subsequent screenings at Deep Fried Film Festival, On the Surface, Innsbruck, Austria, Document 8 International Human Rights film Festival, Machrihanish Village Hall and the Cine de Granada Film Festival in Spain.

- Bonita and Pura Vide broadcast on the Community Channel.
- 2009 Working on the production of the “The Road to Drumlemen: Memories of the Argyll Colliery.
- Video evaluation for BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).
- Crewing for Media Co-op and Karpus Projects.
- Editing for Urban Roots/ BTCV.
- 2008 CINESTRAT film festival, Alicante, Spain - Awarded Best Short Environmental Documentary
- “Bonita”: Screenings throughout Argyll as part of a tour for Fairtrade Fortnight; Cine Pobre Film Festival, Holguin, Cuba; Plymouth University in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Futures and the Dept of Earth and Ocean Studies; broadcast by the Community Channel.
- “Pura Vida?”: Screenings throughout Argyll as part of a tour for Fairtrade Fortnight sponsored by Scottish Coop; screened at Video Med Badajoz, Spain.
- Started work on the “The Road to Drumlemen: Memories of the Argyll Colliery”, a documentary about Argyll’s last coal mine which closed in 1967.
- “La Chacina de la Suerte”: a short documentary look at slow food, filmed in Huelva Province Spain. Ongoing
- Filming in Huelva for a film about sustainable agriculture/cork
- “Have Your Say”: short film for Local Community Planning, Community Services, Falkirk Council.
- 2007 “Pura Vida?” screenings at Movimientos, London; Byre Theatre, St Andrews; Abertay University, Dundee; Camcorder Guerrilla Cinema, CCA Glasgow; DocX, Dundee School of Art; FICMAC International Environmental Film Festival of Catalonia, Interferencia Adiovisual, Barcelona.
- Double Bill (“Bonita” and “Pura Vida?”) screenings at Edinburgh World Justice Festival and the International Science Festival, Edinburgh; PDVSA, Venezuela; Fairtrade Foundation Film Festival London.
- “Making a Difference” a short film for Local Community Planning, Community Services, Falkirk Council.
- Two short promotional films for Casa Rural Los Llanos and Picadero La Suerte in Galaroza, Huelva, Spain.
- “Food for Life” – editing a film promo for Glasgow North Community Food Initiative.
- 2006 “Pura Vida?”: Documentary highlighting social and environmental impacts of the agrochemicals used fruit production in Costa Rica: film premiered at Document 4 Human Rights Film Festival, Glasgow, 2006.
- “Pura Vida?” has been purchased by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations for their collection.
- “In the Same Boat”: A video letter from SEN (Special Educational Needs Group, Denny) in collaboration with CTDU.

“CTDU: It Does What It Says On The Tin”: A video evaluation of the Community and Training Development Unit’s volunteer mentoring project.

“Documenting 109”: Glasgow Women’s Library video archive interviewing a wide cross section of women involved with GWL over the years – short films screened at “Know How” Conference, Mexico and Flying Colours exhibition, Glasgow University.

“Dungavel, Monster of the Glen” (interviews and animation) – Camcorder Guerrilla Film – screened at GFT and as part of D Tension, an exhibition at Street Level Glasgow. Also screened at various other venues.

Film footage from various G8 protests in Scotland – screened through Camcorder Guerillas at GFT Glasgow.

“Bonita: Ugly Bananas”: Premiered at Document 2, International Human Rights Film Festival, Glasgow. This film was used by Ecuadorian human and labour rights activists along with USLEAP (US Labour Education in the Americas Project) to highlight human rights violations on plantations owned by presidential candidate, Álvaro Noboa, and played a part in stopping him becoming president in 2002.

“Bonita” was broadcast in 2007 on three Ecuadorian television channels Ecuavisa, Tele Amazona and Gamavisión.

Bonita screenings in Scotland, London, Ecuador and Venezuela: Glasgow Print Studio; SEAD AGM, Edinburgh Theatre Workshop; Guayas Province Banana Workers Association, Ecuador; Dundee University with One World Centre; Fife Fair Trade Festival; Edinburgh International Science Festival; MOVIMIENTOS Latin American Network; London Metropolitan University; Deep Fried Film Festival (Best Documentary); WEA, St Mungo’s Museum, Glasgow; St Andrews Students One World Group, University of St Andrews; Abertay University, Dundee; Telesur, Venezuela; Fairtrade Foundation, London.

Bonita has been purchased by the Food and Agricultural Organisation for the United Nations for their collection. To be used as a resource in secondary schools throughout schools by STUC (Scottish Trade Union Congress).

Workshops

- 2011 Feltmaking and textiles at Springburn Academy
Video training workshops – various.
Introduction to Graphic Design, Illustration and leaflet design for small businesses CARS/Townscape Heritage Initiative, Campbeltown.
- 2010 Expressive arts and human rights workshops, St Brigid’s Primary School, Glasgow.
Cross Disciplinary workshops Curriculum for Excellence Conference at The Burrell Collection (Glasgow Museums Education).
Environmental Mural (Marine Litter) with children from Dalintober Primary, Campbeltown – for GRAB Trust.
Intergenerational Lantern Workshops for THI Campbeltown.
- 2009 A series of mixed media art workshops with young people with special needs co-ordinated by Art in Partnership and Barrhead Housing Association (BASIS Big Lottery):

<http://www.barrheadarts.org/biglottery mondaynight/>

Health in Mind, Orchard Centre Services – participatory work about mental health issues: East Lothian.

GRAB Trust, Argyll, Recycling Awareness Banners with Tarbert Academy and Campbeltown Grammar School.

- 2008 Textile workshops through Glasgow Open Museum and the Medical Foundation working with a group of African women who are the victims of torture. Work to be displayed at the Burrell Collection.
- Awareness raising banners focusing on marine litter – Grab Trust (Lochgilphead) and both Rothesay Primary and Rothesay Academy.
- 2007 Issues based banners at CTDU, Falkirk and at Greenhill Resource Centre, Bonnybridge
- “Imagine Ravenscraig” architecture and design workshops with young people in Ravenscraig, Motherwell, in collaboration with Art in Partnership.
- 2 day Globalisation workshop with Springburn Academy.
- Workshops with FABB (A group of young people with additional needs) – in collaboration with Barrhead Housing Association and Art in Partnership (BASIS Phase 3): <http://www.barrheadarts.org/phase3FABB/>
- Issues based art workshops with CTDU in Clackmannanshire.
- Issues based banner with DAG (Disability Awareness Group) and CTDU.
- Working with older people in Barrhead (Neilston and Barrhead Disabled Forum).
- Issues based textile workshop with Denny Community Flat, Denny.
- Video Skills for beginners, Glasgow Women’s Library.
- 2006 Participatory Video for CTDU (Community Training Development Unit), Stirling:
- Video work for New Deal, Greenock, Inverclyde about the Sugar Houses.
- 218 project, Rule of Thumb (GOMA) workshops and filming.
- Workshops at Transforming Literacies (RaPAL), Glasgow University - visual literacy.
- Video Letter with mothers of children who have special educational needs (SEN, Denny).
- 2005 Glasgow City Council Holiday Programme with local young people in Toryglen.
- Banner-making workshops with community groups across Scotland for International Women’s Day, World Youth Congress, G8 Summit, and with the Cofan People from Ecuador with Friends of the Earth Scotland. Also worked with Costa Rican Banana Workers’ trade union, SITRAP.
- 2004 Working with local young people to create a logo and exhibition for Toryglen Social Inclusion Partnership, Glasgow.
- Workshops at Bothkennar for Popular Education Forum and for Workers’ Education Association AGM, Falkirk.
- 2003 “Conflict”: Coordinating workshops, making a marching banner and facilitating event with Honduran trade unionist: CTDU, Falkirk.

- “Trees of Life”: workshops based on personal histories: Davislea Residential Home for Older People, Glasgow.
- Glasgow Museums and SIPS Schools in Glasgow: multimedia workshops inspired by exhibits in Glasgow museums: Lamlash and Barlanark Primary Schools.
- Flag-making: Carntyne Primary School, with The Hidden Gardens. Textile design workshops in Pinewood Primary School, Drumchapel.
- 2002 Workshops for CTDU, linking Forth Valley Active Citizens with banana workers in Ecuador.
- Rutherglen Schools Multicultural Project: banners: Toryglen, Burgh and Calderwood Primary Schools. Cuthbertson Primary School, Glasgow.
- 2001 Banner Making with adults with learning difficulties: CTDU, Stirling and Falkirk College.
- “Painted Houses”: Painting steel shutters on derelict houses in Easterhouse with Garthamlock Girls Group.
- Scotland Street Museum: Ethnic jewellery making workshops. Clay workshops for children for Divali: Glasgow Museums. Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries: Banner-making workshops with Quarrybrae Primary School: a gift for the Lakota Sioux people of the USA.
- 2000 Schools workshop projects at St Brendan’s Primary, Yoker, Springburn Academy and with Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries.
- “Connecting Cultures”: The Lighthouse, Glasgow: workshops, staff training and summer school activities. St Mungo’s Museum of Religion: workshops on the Days of the Dead in Mexico.
- 1999 “Glasgow 1999: Year of Architecture and Design”: Springburn Academy, Designer in Residence; Banners for “Workspace of the Future”, Scottish Enterprise; Kelvingrove Museum and Art Galleries, children’s workshops; Broomhill Primary and Tinto Primary design workshops; St Brendan’s Primary, mural panels for “Design Maze” and permanent exhibit in school; “Furniture for the Future” workshops with children.
- 1984-99 Various community arts projects carried out with the following groups: Park Primary, Alloa; St Mary’s Primary, Stirling; Artlink Central at Bellsdyke and Kildean Hospitals; St. Brigid’s Parents’ Action Group, Glasgow; Castlemilk Women’s Project; Gogarburn Hospital, Artlink, Edinburgh.

Photography and Digital Work

- 2011 Portraits of Banana Workers, Cameroon Central Africa.
- Initiated ongoing photography project with small holders in the Sierra de Huelva, Southern Spain – ongoing.
- Graphics for Barham Glen Architects and Camcorder Guerrillas
- On screen graphics for Media Coop films
- 2010 On screen graphics for Media Coop films
- Graphics work for Camcorder Guerrillas

Design: Interiors, Murals, Graphics, Textiles and Illustration

- 2009 CAT (Centre for Advanced Textiles) Glasgow School of Art – Digital print for textiles course.

- 2006–09 Graphic Design for Camcorder Guerillas.
- 2005 Web-site for on-line exhibition of multi-media work, based on research in the UK and Latin America on bananas and trade; images of original woodcuts, text, video and photography: <http://www.greengold.org.uk/>
- 2004 Trade Union Forum web site for Banana Link
- 2001–06 CTDU (Community Training Development Unit): Graphics for banners.
- 2000–06 Banana Link: Graphic design and illustration for trade campaign organisation
- 2000 Graphics for World Development Movement Scotland and Labour Behind the Label (textile industry labour rights campaign group).
- 1999 La Posada, Mexican Restaurant, St. Andrews: interior design for Alex Knight and Simon Littlejohn; the commission included a trip to Mexico to source materials: <http://www.grillhouse.co.uk/>
- 1984-99 Murals and painted details for The Doll's House Restaurant, St. Andrews; Banners, Guildford Square, Rothesay, for Bute Partnership; Murals for the Triangle Restaurant, Queen Street, Glasgow; Printed furnishings for the Penguin Cafe, Edinburgh, Triangle Restaurant, Glasgow and for Graven Images of Glasgow. Textile designs exhibited and sold internationally from 1984 to 1992.

Allotment Project

- 2009-11 Plot 16 Collective project. Hamiltonhill Allotments, Glasgow with artist, Anne Elliot and architect, Paul Barham Taking an abandoned plot and turning it into a productive organic growing space. Best newcomers award in 2010 (Glasgow Allotment Group/Glasgow City Council). Ongoing project.

Research

- 2007–11 Continuing research in Sierra de Huelva, Spain, into sustainable food and cork production. Also researching popular festivals in the same area.
- 2006 Research in Sierra de Huelva, Spain, into sustainable food production in the dehesa (ancient agricultural system of cork and holm oak supporting free range pigs).
- 2005 Research in Costa Rica, with Carlos Arguedas, Health and Safety and Environmental Officer with SITRAP (Banana Workers' Trade Union) and Dr Catharina Wesseling, Dept Toxicology, University of Costa Rica and SALTRA (Work and Health in Central America) and in Brussels, to IBC2 (2nd International Banana Conference) to meet with scientists working on the effects of pesticides (Dr Raúl Herrari and Dr Catharina Wesseling).
- 2005 Web Designer for on-line exhibition of multi-media work, based on research in the UK and Latin America, relating to bananas and trade: Images of original woodcuts, text, video and photography.
- 2004 Research in Costa Rica, with Carlos Arguedas, Health and Safety and Environmental Officer with SITRAP (Banana Workers' Trade Union).
- 2003 Research in Southern Ecuador, in collaboration with FENACLE (Federation of Agro-industrial Workers and indigenous Peoples of Ecuador) interviews and video for film.

- 2002 Research in Southern Ecuador, in collaboration with FENACLE, interviews, video and photographs of banana plantation workers. Material utilised for “Memorias Grabadas” exhibitions and to make “Bonita: Ugly Bananas” film.
- 2000 Research in Panama and Costa Rica, in collaboration with banana workers’ trade unions: interviews, video and photographs of banana plantation workers. Material utilised for “Memorias Grabadas” exhibitions and films.
- 1998 Four months field research into Cuban traditional music, including interviews with Compay Segundo and Reinaldo Hierrezuelo. Mixed media material used for “Buscando América” and “Memorias Grabadas” exhibitions.
- 1992 12 research trips to Mexico over 6 six years, documenting popular festivals and work of popular artists including the Linares (papier maché) and Soteno (ceramics) families.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2007 Green Gold, Byre Theatre, St Andrews.
- 2005 Memorias Grabadas”, Pelican Gallery (Functionsuite/Artlink) Edinburgh
- 2004 St Johns Gallery (Functionsuite/Artlink) Livingston
- 2001 “Buscando America”, Out of the Blue, Edinburgh
- 2000 “Buscando America”, Fringe Gallery, Glasgow
- 1999 Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine
- 1998 Latin American Film Festival, Glasgow Film Theatre
Latin American Film Festival, Pancho Villa’s Restaurant, Glasgow
Anderson Bell Christie Architects, Glasgow
- 1996 “The Day of the Dead”, Glasgow Print Studio (group)
- 1995 "Camina y Ven", Grampian Hospitals Art Trust, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
“Juego de Colorines”, Artlink

Other exhibitions include:

Glasgow Print Studio; Glasgow Society of Women Artists; Grampian Hospitals Art Trust, Aberdeen; Highland Printmakers Gallery, Inverness; Gallery Heinzl, Aberdeen; Dunfermline Museum; The Gatehouse Gallery; Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh; Queens Hall, Edinburgh and Main Fine Art, Glasgow.

Lectures

- 2008 Lecture on practice as an artist working in a political/issues based context at Glasgow Women’s Library
Doing What You Do Only Better: Using Creative Arts for Evaluation. CTDU Associates Launch
- 2006 Bridging between communities in Scotland and Latin America for IDEAS Community Forum on my practice. (The International Development Education Association of Scotland)
Ecuadorian Banana Sector for Workers Education Association
STUC (Scottish Trade Union Congress) Youth Forum

- 2005 Department of Education, University of Glasgow, Latin American Art and Politics
- 2002 Glasgow Film Theatre: Introductory talk for “Buena Vista Social Club” and “Lágrimas Negras”, two films about Cuban music.
- 1999 “An Introduction to Latin American Popular Culture”: DACE, University of Glasgow: Designing and teaching a ten-week course for adults.
Glasgow Society of Women Artists: Invited speaker: “Mexican Popular Art”.
Glasgow Museum of Modern Art: Talk on Mexican Art for museum guides.
- 1998 “A Journey through Cuban Music”: Day School on Cuban music, Glasgow University.
Entries on Mexican Popular Art for the “Encyclopaedia of Latin American and Caribbean Culture” (Routledge).
- 1997 Glasgow Hispanic Society: Talk on Cuban Popular Music.
- 1996 University of Glasgow: Lectures in Spanish on Mexican Popular Art.

Broadcasts

- 2004 BBC Radio Scotland: Songlines: “Guantanamera” (Joseito Fernandez): Contributor.
- 2002 BBC Radio Scotland: Songlines: “Viente Años” (María Teresa Vera): Contributor.
Radio Tricolor, Guayaquil, Ecuador: the Los Alamos labour conflict. Interview.
- 1994 BBC Radio Scotland: “Snatched from the Flames”.

Articles & Publications

- 2010 Me and Mine, Billy Briggs (The Scotsman)
The Road to Drumlehan – a lyrical documentary on brotherhood at Argyll Colliery, Lynda Henderson, For Argyll
- 2007 The Worst of the Bunch by Billy Briggs for the Scotsman
Lifelines by Billy Briggs for The Herald
- 2006 Chemical Cocktail Fruit? – Article about the Green Gold project for Variant Magazine.
- 2005 Green Gold? – Article about the Green Gold project in Perspectives Magazine.
David and Goliath - Article on the Los Alamos labour conflict for the Scottish Trade Union Review.
Article on Gilberth Bermúdez, Costa Rican banana workers’ trade union leader, for the ICTUR Journal and Scottish Trade Union Review.
Banana workers’ testimonies translated and transcribed and published on the Internet at: <http://www.greengold.org.uk/Testimonies.htm>
- 2002 “Art and Communities in Scotland and Mexico”: Article for the Community Education Journal: “Concept”.

Teaching

- 1988-99 Visiting lecturer in textile design at Glasgow School of Art, Gray's School of Art (Aberdeen) and Scottish College of Textiles (Galashiels)
- Teaching design to HND students at Reid Kerr College.
- Teaching at SRC Visual Arts Studio and talks related to my own work at teachers' in-service days.

Employment

- 2007 Filmmaking project related to community-driven planning in Falkirk and Denny.
- 2005–07 Freelance work with Banana Link including graphic design and organising speaker tours in Scotland.
- 2005 Video documentation: Summer School, Birds of Paradise Theatre Company, Glasgow.
- 2004 Web designer Trade Union Forum web site for Banana Link.
- 2003 Linguistic facilitator at "Raising the Banana Standard": international conference involving delegates from every part of the supply chain from worker to supermarket.
- 2001–05 Part-time Scottish Coordinator for Banana Link, a Norwich based organisation that campaigns for fair trade and social and environmental justice for banana workers Latin America and the Caribbean. Coordinator/artist with Banana Link including graphic design and organising speaker tours in Scotland. I have also been involved in coordinating campaigns, speaker tours, interpreting and other solidarity work with other voluntary organisations in Scotland, such as Christian Aid and War on Want.
- 2001 CTDU (Community Training Development Unit): Graphics for banners. "Unpeeling Bananas": facilitating, organising and translating for Nicaraguan trade unionist: CTDU, Stirling.
- 2000 Translation and organising visit in collaboration with Central America Women's Network for Rosibel Flores, feminist activist from MAM, El Salvador. Translation for Christian Aid for Nicaraguan activist, Sergio Saenz López, of Movimiento Comunal, Matagalpa.
- Banana Link: Graphic design and illustration for trade campaign organization.
- Graphics for World Development Movement Scotland and Labour Behind the Label (textile industry labour rights campaign group).
- 1999 Organised Scottish visits and interpreted for Guatemalan human rights activist Roberto Tépaz López, and for Gilbert Bermúdez, co-ordinator of Latin American banana union umbrella organisation, COLSIBA.
- La Posada, Mexican Restaurant, St. Andrews: interior design for Alex Knight and Simon Littlejohn. The commission included a trip to Mexico to source materials.
- The Doll's House Restaurant, St. Andrews (designed by Graven Images): Murals and painted details.

1997 Interpreter for SITRAP (Union of Costa Rican Plantation Workers) visiting STUC and SCIAF: activists invited by World Development Movement and Banana Link.

Referees

Liam Kane, DACE, University of Glasgow (Spanish and Latin American projects)

Lucinda Broadbent, Media Co-op (Filmmaking)

Anne Wallace, Glasgow City Museums Education Officer (Educational art projects)

Alison Striling, Artlink, Edinburgh (Community arts)

Websites

<http://www.greengold.org.uk/>

<http://www.jannimmo.com/>

<http://www.vimeo.com/jannimmo> (films online)

Interests

Long distance horse riding in Sierra de Huelva, Southern Spain

Allotment

Swimming