



## Room 13, Bristol

**As part of my M.A. studies, in 2013 I researched the children's international art studio phenomenon 'Room 13' (acclaimed by Tate's former Chief Executive Sir Nicholas Serota as the best model of art education in Britain today).**

I worked under the supervision of Professor Jeff Adams who is the Principal Editor of the International Journal of Art & Design Education, leader of the University of Chester's Doctorate in Education programme, and co-director of RECAP, its centre for Research into Education, Creativity and Arts through Practice.

I meticulously researched this field and undertook a thorough data collection exercise, including an extensive visit to an active Room 13 group, where I carried out interviews and observations. My research involved a thorough trawl of literature pertaining to child-centred creative education, as well as government policy documents, which led to me developing a comparative argument, based on the emergence of the new National Curriculum for England, with the established creative practices of Room 13. I also drew on my extensive experience as a practitioner in the field and gained valuable insights into the subject, which have been a spring board for developing future work.

Subsequently, my attitude to trusting children's creativity and autonomy as art makers, and to the roles of learner/teacher, has been deeply affected. I see myself as a co-worker with children and a co-learner. I am much less didactic in my approach to teaching and actively encourage a Vygotskian master-apprentice relationship between myself and learners, as well as between learners and each other. I am more open to learning from my students as I am to guiding them in their learning. I have embraced a more egalitarian and democratic approach to teaching and learning.