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# Samantha Francis

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## Profile

Creative arts, projects and events producer with a strong track record of igniting and facilitating innovative, complex projects, bringing people together and making things happen.

An adept communicator with an eye on audience development and community engagement, drawing upon strong cultural interests and networks locally and nationally.

## Work Experience

**Supernormal:** Co-Director, 2014 - present

Creative Producer, 2010 -14

Supernormal is a Community Interest Company that produces an annual weekend festival of experimental arts and music for an audience of 1500. Supernormal provides opportunities for artists to work creatively, experimentally and collaboratively, within innovative, engaging programmes for adventurous audiences. Contributing to the development of the organisation's creative vision and programmes my key tasks include:

- > Developing, curating and producing multi-disciplinary arts and music programmes and projects.
- > Co-leading with organisational and audience development, community engagement, research and planning, developing opportunities and partnerships.
- > Budget & finance management, fundraising, reporting and evaluation.
- > Overseeing daily operations and logistics, working with a small team, stakeholders, services, freelancers, crew and volunteers.

**Arnolfini:** Live Programme Producer (Freelance)

June 2015 – October 2016

Working within the programme team to develop the public programme of events across performance, music, talks, workshops and film. My role included event production and delivery, liaison with artists, working with programme partners and internal departments to ensure high quality, diverse and engaging events and programmes. Selected events:

- > 'Agency: Make your Mark' - A month-long, in-gallery participatory activity for families and all ages as part of 'Moving Targets' season.
- > 'Absent Ruins'; Performative event featuring BME artists, voices and communities from the city in response to the John Akomfrah exhibition.

## Education

> MA Curating, Bristol UWE, 2014 (Distinction)

> BA (Hons) Fine Art Photography, Uni of Gloucestershire, 2010 (2:1)

> HNC Photography, City of Bristol College, 2008 (Merit)

> NVQ 3 Social Care, Work-based, 2005

> BTEC N. Dip Art & Design, 1996

## Skills

- > Curating & programming
- > Project management
- > Event production
- > Copy & content
- > Creative & resilient
- > Adaptable & flexible
- > Collaborative working
- > I.T & admin,
- > Finance & fundraising

## References

> Elisa Kay; Curator, Spike Island, [elisa.kay@spikeisland.org.uk](mailto:elisa.kay@spikeisland.org.uk)

> Phil Owen; Asst Curator, Arnolfini, [phil.owen@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:phil.owen@arnolfini.org.uk)

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## Work Experience continued.....

### **Spike Island:** Studios Coordinator/ Open Studios Event Coordinator / Volunteer Coordinator

Jan 2015 - June 2016

- > Managing the operations and administration of around 80 artists studios and regularly working closely with artists and studio reps, arranging studio visits, selection panels and development opportunities as well as managing meetings, finance and systems administration.
- > Project managing Spike Island's annual Open Studios event: Coordinating building-wide artist projects and activities, overseeing budgets, marketing, event management and evaluation.
- > Coordinating the volunteer programme to facilitate gallery invigilation and developing opportunities for over 50 volunteers relating to Spike Island's exhibition and events programme.

## Selected Freelance Work

2009 - 2017

Freelance work in arts and event production, developing, supporting and facilitating projects within varied contexts:

- > Saffy Setohy's 'Light Field'; Project producer
- > Matt Davies and Milo Newman's 'By the Mark the Deep'; Project producer
- > Rising Arts Agency; mentor for 16-25 year-olds with creative ambitions
- > BA Arts & Festival Management, School of Arts & Creative Industries, London South Bank Uni; Guest lecturer
- > British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA) 'A Festival Career' event for students; Guest round table speaker
- > Bristol Experimental Expanded Film; Programme coordinator
- > Sling Shot, 2.8 Hours Later: UK-Wide Event Producer
- > Fort Process: Event Production Coordinator
- > London Pleasure Gardens: Art Department Production

## Projects Portfolio

To see my portfolio of independent and collaborative projects please visit my website: [www.samfrancisco.co.uk](http://www.samfrancisco.co.uk)

## Additional Work History

Prior to returning to education and pursuing a career within arts and culture, I worked in supported housing for adults with social difficulties, as a youth worker and in a variety of administration roles since 1994. During this time I also travelled abroad, taught English in Italy, as well as bouts of casual bar work.