

Homework 28.1.04

Patricia

Arts Council Meeting -
Non-Listening

I had written to Tessa Fitzjohn - the Director of Visual Arts about Spival - Arkiv Editions project. From her conversation after five minutes I knew she had already decided from the letter + 3 emails not responded to - until the day before our meeting - that she didn't approve of the project.

I'm unable to write up this meeting as the negativity, non-listening, closed institutional mind offends and disrespects. It makes me want to cry, not in a "poor-me" mode, but in depression that such reactions exist from inside the Arts - from an artist paid to support artists.

"unaided I play" - a line from a poem I wrote when in Belfast back in 1988 looking for funding from Michael Longley at the Arts Council Northern Ireland. I was shown into a room that ran through into 3 or 4 'open' rooms. There was a grand white piano. I hit the keys and the sounds echoed the high-ceilinged expanse on a bright lit day. The sound hit the walls, but the Arts Council didn't hear me.

I left there emptied as was my feeling with Tessa Fitzjohn at the Brighton A.C.E. office