Summer Lodge: Flattening the hierarchy

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Summer Lodge Word cloud, Based on word frequency from interviews during a 6-month research project.
community, (non)-outcome, experimentation, research informed teaching, research through practice, students as resource, students transformation, bounded space, tutor-artist role
“I’ve seen some people [artists] make more work in these two weeks than I’ve seen people [students] make in a whole year on the course.”

– student studio assistant
the important of others
initial (crap)
“You can actually make as much work as you want to make...you know, you shouldn’t do the minimum, you should do however much you want to do!”

– student studio assistant
play, fail, test, try
“It enables us to have that time of truly doing experimentation that is really rare. We try to say this to the students: ‘this doesn’t happen once you leave university very often’. Artists should really take the time to do that but it is quite a hard thing to be just working and experimenting in the studio.”

- participant artist(s)
“A lot of them [artists] don’t know what they’re doing all the time; it’s just great to see that... It made me a lot more confident at that point [during term time]. When I didn’t always know what I was doing I was like: ‘oh it’s fine, it will work.’”

- student studio assistant
“Dipping into projects run by more experienced practitioners gave me a view of how artists operate beyond a BA course ... It felt really exciting to assist with a range of projects that seemed to be more ongoing and ambitious than my own studio practice at the time. And to see how the artists dealt with this within the two-week residency period.”

- student studio assistant

“It became really clear that they [students] have ideas and suggestions and they try out things. Then it’s really hard to draw a line between what’s your idea and what’s theirs. Instead of trying to work out where that line is, why not just remove the line and work together?”

- participant artist/tutor
student transformation
“The two students that I worked with, I think we just had a really good rapport, and their knowledge and my knowledge, I think we had this reciprocal thing going on ..., we all got a lot out of it, just working as artists in a space.”

- participant artist(s)
“It’s not a luxury add-on, but it’s actually a part of how you are a tutor at Nottingham Trent University.”

- participant artist/Fine Art tutor
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All quotes taken from the research paper:
Maier, D & Stevens, C. (2016). The Effect of Summer Lodge on Artistic Research and Pedagogy at NTU and Beyond. Research Report, Nottingham Trent University