



School: Bath School of Art

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Project Title: *Artist Boss*

UOA: 32: Art and Design

Artist Boss brought together artists, curators, students, and academics to investigate the role of the studio assistant. The project focused on sculptor Sir Anthony Caro (1924-2013) and his studio assistants. Caro, who worked as an assistant to Henry Moore, is lauded as the forefather of Modernist British sculpture.

The research asks: what is the impact of collaboration on artistic identity, and how do we perceive its legacy for sculpture today? What is the relationship between assistantships, training, and formal education in art? What new kinds of reciprocal practices and methodologies are enabled by artistic collaboration?

This is the first research project to invite Caro's assistants to reflect on their own careers, revealing new insights into the nature of artistic collaboration and questions artistic authorship, illuminating the importance of fully understanding complex dynamics between artists and assistants. Additionally, the project charts the development of artists' careers, examining relationships with formal art education. Through aural histories and exhibitions of old and new sculptures by Caro and his assistants, *Artist Boss* reveals new readings and interpretations of Caro's work, artists' career paths, and approaches to making.

Various research methodologies were utilised, including the production of new art works, interviews, discussion groups, workshops, and symposiums with practitioners, critics, theorists, and students across the disciplines of Fine Art and Education. *Artist Boss* resulted in three exhibitions, several publications, a website, talks, and educational resources.

Events were held in Bennington USA, AGO Canada, and at The Royal Academy of Art, London, with openly accessible events across Somerset, Wiltshire, Norwich, and Suffolk. Talks were given at Central St Martins and Leeds, with reviews in various arts periodicals. The project was supported by Mirvish Canada, Bennington US, Annely Juda, NUA, University of Southampton, BSU, Crowdfunding, Educational Trusts, with sponsorship from VASW, Ambit, MTEC, New Art Centre, and Creativepool.