

Creative Egremont

50a Gallery

West Cumbria

Creative use of an unused shop to provide a new arts space for exhibitors and visitors

Egremont in West Cumbria is undergoing a period of extensive regeneration - and when one shop in a renovated building proved hard to let, it was recreated as a new gallery space.

The whole building in question was renovated as part of the Market Town Initiative regeneration project, which is funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

When the owner of the building could not find a tenant for one part, community arts organisation Creative Egremont stepped in with a new idea - to use it as a gallery.

Creative Egremont, a partnership between Grizedale Arts and Egremont and Area Regeneration, delivers a diverse programme of arts and culture as part of the town's regeneration process.



50a Gallery. Photo: Karen Storr

Simon Walker, programme manager at Egremont and Area Regeneration Partnership, said: 'The space for the new gallery was generously donated by the owner rent-free for a minimum of a year, and is offered for free to both exhibitors and to visitors. It aims to be challenging, and also to give a new and exciting aspect to the streetscape, attracting the interest of passers-by and engaging people in the arts as they go about their day-to-day life.

'It has allowed young artists, especially from the University of Cumbria, to be able to exhibit in an interesting and affordable space.

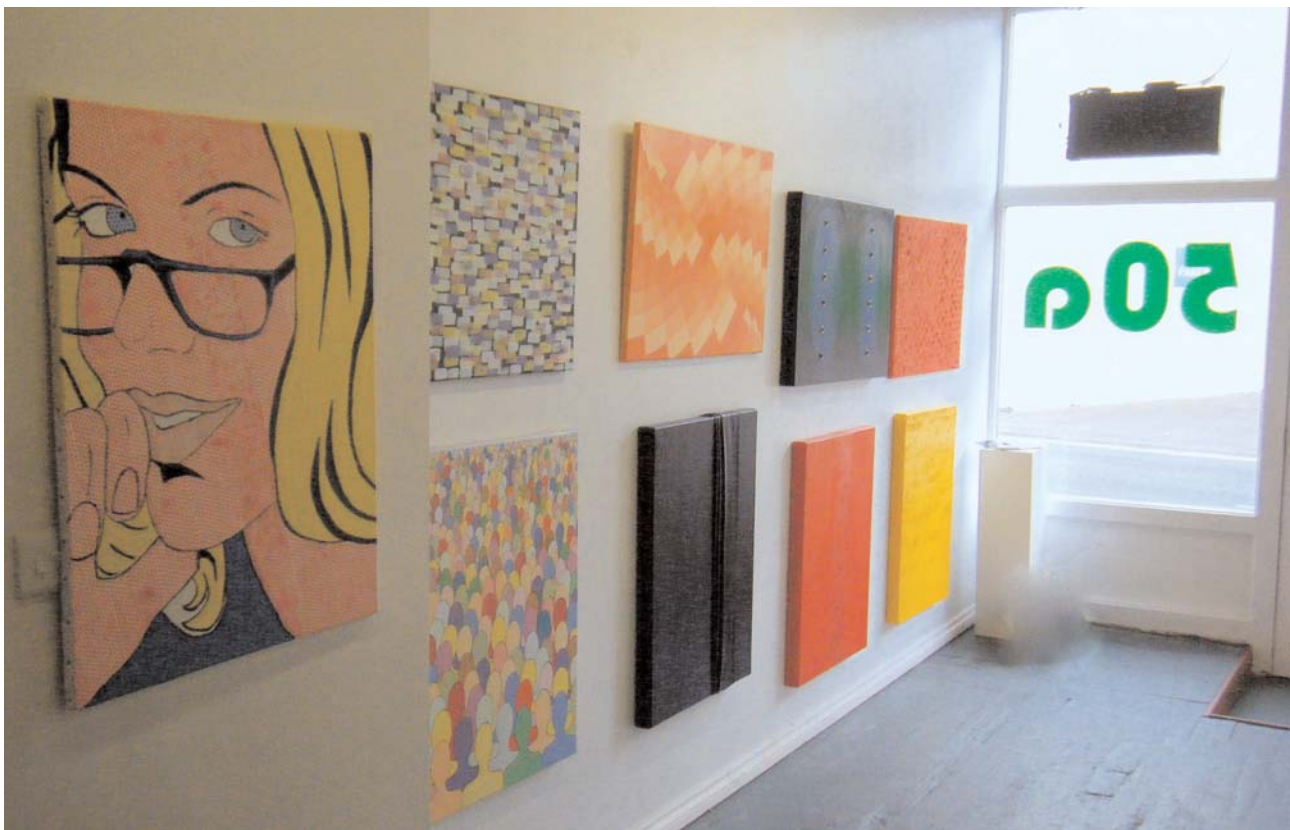
'Adding an additional gallery space

complements the existing arts and crafts galleries, and also permanent works of art such as Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane's Greasy Pole sculpture.

'It is helping us to build the critical mass required to promote the town as a centre of activity in the creative and cultural sectors.'

Creative Egremont receives support from a wide variety of organisations. Arts Council England, North West contributed to its funding with £120,000 from our Grant for the arts scheme. Grizedale Arts is also an Arts Council regularly funded organisation.

<http://www.creative-egremont.org/>



50a Gallery. Photo: Karen Storr