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Dear Dave,

As you probably know I have recently taken part in a group show of installation work entitled 'The Suitcase Show', organized by The Film and Video Umbrella.

I thought it might be useful to let you know what I thought as a result of working at the Harris Museum in Preston, because in some ways its fairly representative of many municipal galleries who have little or no experience of putting on mixed media events.

It was clear from the moment I walked into the building that the staff and attendants were unprepared for artists actually building/installing the work. This is an instance where people need to be primed in advance and reminded that one of the characteristic features of installation work is, that it takes account of the gallery space and can only finally be realised in situ. Many crucial decisions are therefore made right up until the final moment. Not because the artists are sloppy or unprofessional, but because this way of relating to the work is a vital part of the whole process of creating a distinctly different and ephemeral type of art.

I suppose I feel that the gallery directors/organizers need to be encouraged to take on this sort of work despite the fact that it is invariably 'messy' by comparison to the norm.

Because the attendants at Preston were wary of the installations and didn't really want to be involved in any of the technicalities, I was reminded once again that its important to introduce this area of work in a positive way. This led me on to consider the possibility of paying a modest fee to say a video artist who has recently graduated to not only supervise the technical side but