Feeney Trust Report

My time as a fellow with the Feeney Trust has enabled me to work with a composer/producer in order to gain new skills and knowledge that has enabled me to make soundtracks for films and exhibitions.

I worked with Joe Flory who worked with me on developing these skills. Over the last 10 years Joe has worked as a song- writer, producer and composer releasing electronic pop albums under the guise of 'Primary 1' and 'Amateur Best'. He has played drums in classical concert halls around the world for Chilly Gonzales, led music lessons at schools in Birmingham and created numerous remixes, musical pieces for short films and adverts. He recently won a Cannes Dolphin (Corporate Media and TV Awards) for Best Music.



In addition to studio time with Joe, the funds enabled me to purchase hardware and software that I have used for the development of new skills and a number of different works. In addition to a pair of Genelec studio monitors I purchased:

Hardware:

Korg Volca Sample



The Volca sample is a ten part PCM sampler which can be controlled via the 16-step sequencer or 'played' and recorded using the sequencer as a keyboard. When starting out on the fellowship none of these things meant anything to me. Although many of the things it can do are easily replicated with software I've enjoyed the hands on approach that is similar to the way I work with analogue photography and found materials. It is something I am working with more as I develop various bodies of work.

ProFX 12 Channel Mixer



ProFX 12 Channel Mixer has enabled me to combine the multiple strands of production and to feed them into my computer for mixing and mastering. It has also been an interesting process to experiment with the various effects that can be applied to individual channels.

Cubase



Cubase formed the basis of the main sessions with Joe and introduced ways to put multiple tracks together. The screen shot above has a sample of Caminante Del Mayab by Estela Nunez which is a track I've wanted to work with for sometime after I encountered it in a 1970's documentary of Edward James made by ATV. I've been making work about Edward James for some time so this audio element has been an interesting way to think about combining various strands.

Ableton Live



I used Ableton to remix a sample from Concrete Routes, Sacred Cows by Cock and Bull. A synth folk band from Milton Keynes. This one track, in fact just the first synth note, has been used to construct the soundtrack to a new film that will launch at MK Gallery in 2019. I have also started some preparatory work to think about how this could be performed live.

In summery, my time as a fellow with the Feeney Trust has broadened my skillset enormously but perhaps more importantly, has enabled me to make new work that I didn't anticipate at the start of the fellowship.

Stuart Whipps 2018