

# To some, it's a shoebox, but to artists, it's the Peedie Gallery!

It could be the smallest art gallery in the world, and according to its creators, the 'Peedie Gallery' started off as a joke.

Now, the art space, which is literally the size of a shoebox, will be launched in the Orkney Museum this month, housing its second exhibition to date.

Described as a new gallery space for visual artists, writers and makers, it is simply a cardboard box.

But it's what's on the inside that counts, and the gallery has already featured one exhibition, by Stromness based art collaborative, Christil Trumpet.

Its novelty size has caused a storm of interest and curiosity on the local arts scene.

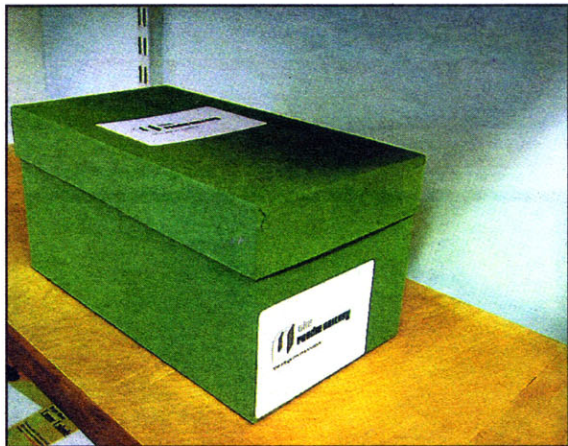
Director and curator of the Peedie Gallery, Tankerness based artist, Rik Hammond, said: "The idea started off as a bit of a joke — an art gallery in a box!

"But as it developed, what was a conversation about arts in Orkney, and specifically gallery provision, became more serious, and the discussion turned to the logistics of setting up an ad hoc, portable, incredibly low budget space for artists to exhibit their work in.

"Without a building, what do you do? What can a gallery be made from? The first thing we thought of was a cardboard box — it's cheap and portable.

"For the first show at the Peedie Gallery, we approached Stromness-based art collaborative, Christil Trumpet (artists Matilda Tumim and Christopher Prendergast) about the idea of exhibiting, as we knew that they'd embrace the spirit of the project, and it all took off from there.

"We've had a lot of interest about the gallery, both from artists locally and internationally,



**Shoebbox Art! The Peedie Gallery at its first venue — a shelf in the office of Orkney Islands Council's arts development officer, Clare Gee.**

as well as from its visitors."

The first exhibition was on display from a shelf in the office of Orkney Islands Council's arts development officer, Clare Gee.

The latest one will be shown within the Orkney Museum, but in the least conventional manner, within a small cupboard which holds an empty water tank, towards the top of the large staircase in Tankerness House.

Rik explained: "We're delighted to be showing for the gallery's second exhibition, John Shapter's latest work, *Coming of Age*, which is a tongue-in-cheek insight into the mythical and mysterious Bay people of Orkney.

"John has responded to the gallery's host location for this exhibition by creating artwork that raises questions about museum collections and their interpretation."

As the gallery will be tucked away in a cupboard, Rik says that visitors will have to seek it out.

He added: "The Peedie Gallery

aims to be experimental, conceptual, a bit subversive and hopefully engaging.

"We're looking forward to working closely with other Orkney artists who want to show at the Peedie in the future, and we're currently developing the 2006/2007 programme of exhibitions, plus the list of future host venues and locations for the gallery itself.

"Over time, the Peedie Gallery hopes to develop a reputation of showing quality work in unusual places by both Orkney artists, and from time-to-time, artists outwith Orkney."

*Coming of Age* opens at the Peedie Gallery on Saturday, July 29 and runs until Friday, September 29 at the Orkney Museum in Kirkwall. The museum is open between 10.30am and 5pm from Monday to Saturday, and 2pm until 5pm on Sundays.

Log on to [www.peedie-gallery.co.uk](http://www.peedie-gallery.co.uk) for more information.

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