

Jane Dorner



This piece is entitled 'Comma Separated Values' and shows an outsize punctuation mark made of layers of optical lenses. Removed of context, it could be a comma, an apostrophe or a quotation mark. This ambiguity is reflective of the way in which language, meaning and vision alter according to perspective. The piece is expressive of the significance of point of view in our interpretation of the world around us.

The title is a metaphor: technically it denotes a computer file format used to exchange data between disparate applications, but viewers are invited to create their own meanings according to values of their own. The piece affirms the value of rules in shaping meaning – applicable both to glass-making and writing. While the misplaced 'greengrocer's apostrophe' is just an irritation, leaving out quotation marks can conceal plagiarism. The addition or omission of a comma can radically change the meaning of a sentence, occasionally with fatal consequences. Glass, if rules are ignored, shatters. The storyteller – here at the weekend – brings out these themes, undercutting expectations about myths and how we receive them.

Artist's statement: 'This is part of my exploration of where text and glass interact. Glass pages – in the form of computer screens and mobile phone displays – have replaced paper as the main carrier of communication. Punctuation marks show up poorly on screens and are in danger of disappearing from usage. I want – I hope amusingly – to focus attention back on them.'

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Scene Through Glass

Performance glass art at the Red House Glass Cone

22-26 June 2005



On show are glass installations by a group of students from the International Glass Centre in Moor Street, Brierley Hill.

This is performance art that involves viewers in a narrative experience mediated by their personal points of view. The exhibits variously express ambiguities in language, childhood dream stories, and urban regeneration.

The artists' work can be seen

inside the cone:

Bridget O'Gorman
Naomi Wilding

in the visitor centre

Jane Dorner
with story-teller John Edgar from 12-4 pm on Saturday
and Sunday, 25-26 June

This event is part of the Stourbridge Performing Arts Festival