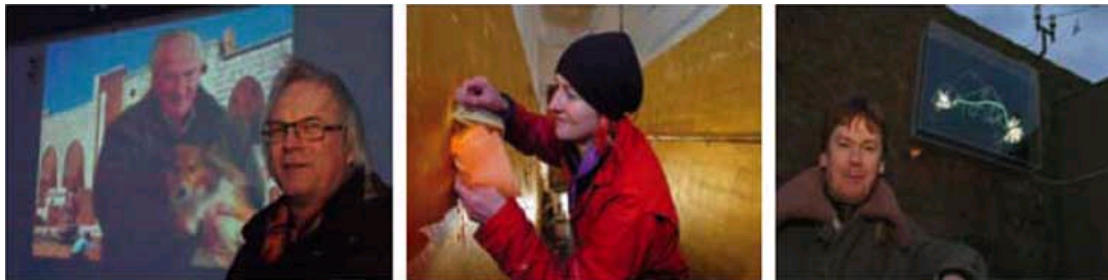


## The Art of Regeneration: the role of public art in the community



*Contemporary artists: Jean Bei Ning, Ginny Hutchison and Stephen Healy*

During March the Palace Hotel in Peterhead was the venue for a two day European conference: Perceptions - People-Place: The Art of Regeneration: exploring the role of public art in the community.

Nearly 100 delegates attended from across Europe. Artists, architects, planners along with those involved in public art projects were able to discuss a wide range of issues.

Aberdeenshire Council arts development officer Saskia Gibbon, who organised the event said: "This was an especially successful event in terms of PR and marketing for the arts and regeneration. There have been some highly stimulating presentations helped to demystify the differences between artists, architects and landscape designers.

"Aberdeenshire Council and our partners have come away with a lot of ideas and there has been positive feedback from delegates. Many were stimulated, refreshed and inspired by the innovative work that was presented," said Saskia. "It was also encouraging to hear people from outside the area speak of Peterhead in such a positive way."

Nick Brown, Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership co-ordinator said: "I believe the true impact of this event will be borne out across the North-east for some time to come."

A few days before the conference three temporary art pieces were commissioned. One was by Aberdeenshire artist, Ginny Hutchison who applied gold leaf to the walls in an identified key area for regeneration. The artwork aimed to transform a poorly lit granite street: Peterhead's connections with the fishing industry, influenced Stephen Healy. His animated neon light, depicting a sperm whale in motion this was located at a local fishmongers: Dutch film maker, Jean Bei Ning, filmed local people and created a sound installation and the illusion that they were in exotic locations around the globe. The footage was projected in various places around the town.

The conference and art works were supported by Aberdeenshire Council as part of the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership / Interreg RevitHar project and by the Scottish Arts Council.