

# Art From The Heart

“Studies of Art and Design shaped me as an artist as well as a person,” UCA lecturer **Simon Pruciak** says as he embarks on an epic, around-the-world research project. “I’d like to give people, who wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity, access to an art education so that they can enjoy and benefit from it in the same way that I was fortunate enough to.”



**Simon Pruciak**  
BA (Hons) Photography,  
Rochester, 2009

**LEFT**

Simon’s epic journey  
will take a year



Speaking to us from Rio de Janeiro, Simon explains that, in addition to his exploration of creative geographies – the way that geography and the contemporary visual arts interact – an important part of his expedition will be delivering creative and educational workshops to people living in deprived areas along the way.

“I’ve travelled on personal projects as well as on the University’s behalf into many parts of the world and art education isn’t usually part of the public education curriculum,” says Simon. “Students barely ever have access to it, even privately. Art was such a formative part of my own educational and personal development that I believe it’s important for people from all cultures and backgrounds to experience it.

“While the main goal is to delve into the relatively unexplored territory of creative geographies and develop a project which will be exhibited from next year, we will be delivering these workshops, mainly in community centres, which will explore lens-based media and drawing, all with reference to geography.”

Simon is carrying out the momentous motorbike expedition with his partner, Alex, and over the next 12 months, their journey will take them from South America, through to Central America, the USA and Canada, and then on to Asia and Europe. Simon is due to start exhibiting his work and findings on creative geographies at a number of locations worldwide, with the first presentation set to take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

“The research part of my trip is exciting because the concept of creative geographies is

relatively unexplored and with advancements in image-making technologies, there is a lot of potential to push these boundaries. Our aim is to investigate common territories and boundaries of art and geography by crossing physical borders of diverse cultural contexts to better understand the similarities and differences in cultural and physical landscape.

“With the current [political] tension and the growing visibility of peoples’ identification with the concept of nationhood, belonging and movements through space, the findings should prove interesting to many different groups.”

The project has received patronage from the UN and will be documented by photography and video. Updates of the expedition are also being published regularly on vlogs, blogs and social media.

“I’m a lens-based artist so I always think through this medium,” Simon adds. “Photography and moving image are the most appropriate methods to record an expedition such as this, but the work will be displayed in many forms, including installation, in galleries around the world.”

Alongside the exhibitions, Simon will also be showcasing his experiences and research by publishing a book and creating a film.

**The progress of the expedition can be followed on Twitter @UniCreativeArts or by visiting [journey-limitless.com](http://journey-limitless.com).**