

# Freeman Abayasekera

freeman.abayasekera@gmail.com  
07960135849  
@blackwoods\_farmhouse

Positive, energetic project manager from a creative background, looking for a new challenge. I have extensive production experience, working on complex projects for award-winning international artists. I am looking to work on ambitious campaigns, demonstrating smart thinking and innovation.

## Experience

### Freelance Production and Project Manager

*Present*

Working across the art, design and retail sector, managing the creation/ installation of displays. Clients include Lisson Gallery, Cork Street. Installing such works as Anish Kapoor and Tony Craig.

### Owner at Blackwoods Farm House

*August 2018 - Present*

1 year spent establishing my family business Blackwoods Farm House, a guest house on a 6 acre estate. I relocated to Sri Lanka to manage all aspects of the renovation, from construction through to brand development.

- Project management and production scheduling
- Budgets and payroll / financial management
- Liaising with local government for building permissions
- Business communication in both English and Sinhalese
- Managing construction, from foundations to interiors
- Establishing infrastructure (building a well and roadways)
- Management of tradesman/craftsmen
- Installing a clean water system for the estate
- Organised delivery and planting of 3,500 tea plants
- Construction of an irrigation system for tea terraces

### Senior Producer at Ryan Gander, OBE

*September 2013 - August 2018 (5 years)*

Production lead for British contemporary artist, Ryan Gander. I produced many of Ryan's creative visions, developing the initial idea and seeing it through to exhibition. Each project was completely unique and came with its own set of challenges.

- Managed projects with galleries/ organisations including: Lisson Gallery, Frieze London, Art Basel, Taro Nasu
- Liaising with curators, head technicians and operational managers
- Pitching to and advising for high profile international clients
- Technical plan diagrams for exhibition spaces and artworks
- Budgets, team management and timelines
- Researching specialist vendors (e.g. craftspeople, mechanics)

## Skills

Creative problem solving  
Client management  
Production scheduling  
Budget handling  
Technical drawings  
Painting/ woodwork/ sculpture  
Fabrication processes  
Full drivers license  
First aid trained  
Manual handling

## Software

Adobe Illustrator     • • • • •  
Adobe Photoshop     • • • • •  
Rhino 3D     • • •  
SketchUp     • • •  
Microsoft Office     • • • • •

- Researching bespoke materials to create each artwork
- Troubleshooting technical issues to tight deadlines
- Creating technical handbooks for correct installation of artwork
- Managing photoshoots, and film shoots of artwork
- Logistics, shipping and packaging of artwork
- Quality control artwork display
- Worked between studios based in Suffolk and London

## Education

University of the West of  
England  
BA Hons Fine Art,  
Grade: 2.1  
2007–2010

Dunstable College  
BTEC National Diploma Art and  
Design,  
Grade: Distinction  
2004 - 2005

Fluent in Sinhalese

References available on request

### **Specialist Painting Assistant at Damien Hirst Holdings / Science Ltd**

*June 2011- June 2013 (2 years)*

Part of a team responsible for producing Hirst's artworks, including the "Spot Paintings" and butterfly paintings for the "In and Out of Love" exhibition at Tate Modern. Each project involved extensive training and working to tight deadlines.

### **Gallery Assistant/Technician at Spike Island**

*April 2009 - June 2011 (2 years)*

Front of house position at Bristol based art gallery and studio space. Working closely with both local and international artists.

### **Co-Director at Bristol Diving School**

*March 2009 - June 2011 (2 years)*

I co-founded, built and ran an independent studio/exhibition space within a once derelict diving school. As a team we produced a year long program of exhibitions and events. This success led me to curate shows in Birmingham, Stockholm and Linz.

### **Youth Curator at Tate Modern**

*January 2005 - August 2007 (2 years)*

Organisation and delivery of workshops, tours and events. I gained valuable experience in teaching and working with school groups and young people.