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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Folkestone Triennial Conference: The Sculpture Question

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 November 2014

The Sculpture Question Research Group presents 'The Sculpture Question' conference in partnership with Folkestone Triennial and University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury; part-funded by Interreg IVA programme, a European Regional Development Fund initiative.

In a post-medium art world, the term 'sculpture' still has significance for artists who continue to align themselves with its histories and challenges. Yet over the last half century the practice of sculpture has increasingly positioned itself in the realms of installation, architecture, performance and design. In these inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary contexts, how might sculpture, as a discipline of fine art, continue to be taught and defined today?

Sculpture today is increasingly associated with the public realm where it competes with the agendas of artists, curators, commissioning agents, local and national authorities, funding bodies and local and international audiences, creating a complex, ever-evolving web of meaning and responsibility. Sculpture is as likely to be found outside the gallery as in it, whether in sculpture parks, biennials, as temporary public projects or as commissioned permanent works or monuments. In these often-institutionalised and formalised 'public' contexts, how might sculpture still be understood as radical, contrary or disruptive?

This conference will take the Folkestone Triennial as its case study, while looking back at significant historical precedents, such as Sculpture Projects Münster and Culture in Action. In these contexts, this conference will seek to argue that sculpture is always political and space is never neutral.

Saturday 1 November

10.00 Registration

10.30 Welcome, with introduction by **Sir Peter Bazalgette**, Chair of Arts Council England

PART 1: TERMS

Part 1 of the conference sets out to analyse key terms relating to 'sculpture', from the point of view of artists working today, but also from art-historical and pedagogic standpoints.

Speakers will seek to address some of the following questions:

What is sculpture today? How does it rub up against other disciplines? What is its expanded field? How do we deal with the histories of sculpture, particularly in relation to display, context and archiving? What is the relation of the studio to public display? What does it mean to teach sculpture? What does it mean to define oneself as a sculptor?

10.50 Keynote: **Penelope Curtis**, Director, Tate Britain

11.35 Tea and coffee break (free refreshments)

12.00 Panel discussion with:

Jordan Baseman, artist and Head of Sculpture, Royal College of Art; **Anna Moszynska**, art historian and author, *Sculpture Now*; **Emma Hart**, artist; **Jon Wood**, Research Curator, Henry Moore Institute, and co-editor, *Modern Sculpture Reader*

Chair: **Terry Perk**, sculptor and Reader in Fine Art at UCA, where he is Associate Head of the School of Fine Art

13.30 Free time for lunch and chance to visit the Folkestone Triennial, Folkestone Fringe, and the exhibition *Propositions: Sculpture in response to eco-political landscapes* at the Brewery Tap next to Quarterhouse. Or choose from the following free options (sign up on the day):

14.30 Guided tour of Triennial with **Samenua Seshar**, writer, coach and culture management consultant

14.45 French language guided tour of Triennial with **Jennifer Thatcher**, art critic and organiser of Triennial public programmes for students and adults

15.00 Guided tour of Triennial with **Jane Murtagh**, designer, curator, and Folkestone Triennial tour guide and host

15.15 Informal discussion with Folkestone Triennial curator **Lewis Biggs** and assistant curator **Jo Cowdrey** about the curating of the Triennial – your chance to ask questions!

NB Tours leave from Triennial Visitor Centre (3-7 Tontine Street); curatorial talk in Quarterhouse auditorium

Evening Event, Quarterhouse bar:

17.00 Free drinks and talk by Situations, producers of Michael Sailstorfer's *Folkestone Digs* project for the 2014 Folkestone Triennial.

Claire Doherty, Director of Situations (conference speaker, Sunday), invites you to join her and the Situations team for an informal discussion about *The New Rules of Public Art* and the forthcoming international survey publication, *Out of Time, Out of Place: Public Art Now*, published by Art / Books Ltd, including work by Theaster Gates, Katie Paterson, Pawel Althamer, Public Movement, Susan Philipsz and Gareth Moore. Copies of *The New Rules* will be available free to those who attend, along with the chance to pre-order the new survey publication at a special Triennial discount. All welcome.

Sunday 2 November

10.00 Registration

10.30 Welcome

PART 2: FRAMEWORKS

Part 2 of the conference considers the frameworks within which sculpture is contextualised today, with particular emphasis on its role in the public realm. In an age in which art has been tied in – instrumentalised, even – with regeneration and other socio-economic

agendas, what then are its responsibilities? Who provides the context, and how does it evolve over time? Who benefits in what ways from such framing and contextualising?

Following from this, how might we compare different contexts geographically, historically, socially and politically? What happens when there is no public realm, when land belongs entirely in the private domain?

10.45 Keynote: **Mary Jane Jacob**, Executive Director of Exhibitions and Exhibitions Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Independent Curator

11.30 Tea and coffee break (free refreshments)

12.00 Panel discussion with:

Claire Doherty, Director, Situations; **Amina Menia**, artist; **Shelley Sacks**, Social Sculpture Practitioner / Interdisciplinary Artist and Professor of Social Sculpture and Interdisciplinary Arts, Oxford Brookes University

Chair: **Dominic Rahtz**, Senior Lecturer History and Theory of Art, UCA

13.30 Free time for lunch and last chance to visit the Folkestone Triennial, Folkestone Fringe, and the exhibition *Propositions: Sculpture in response to eco-political landscapes* at the Brewery Tap next to Quarterhouse

PART 3: ENCOUNTERS

In the final part of the conference, we look at the experience of sculpture. How does the public confront works in the public realm? And what is the value of signposting 'art', or allowing for unexpected encounters? How much contextual information should one offer to the viewer and how might sculpture be seen as a starting point, or a reference, for a multi-layered response by a viewer – one that takes into account the frameworks discussed above, as well as personal experience?

15.15 Keynote: **Nicolas Bourriaud**, Director of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, and curator of the Taipei Biennial 2014

16.00 Panel discussion with:

Anouchka Grose, psychoanalyst; **Sarah Staton**, artist; **Iain Sinclair**, writer, filmmaker and psychogeographer; **Anthony Heywood**, Head of Sculpture, UCA

Chair: **Gilda Williams**, London correspondent for *Artforum* and lecturer, MFA Curating, Goldsmiths

17.30 Drinks reception at Quarterhouse bar: all welcome. Free drinks and chance to meet some of the speakers

Tickets

One day: £15, £10 concession

Both days: £20, £15 concession

Ticket prices include teas and coffees during the mid-morning breaks, and wine at the drinks receptions.

Booking: <http://www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk/the-sculpture-question/>

About UCA

One of Europe's leading arts and design institutions, the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) builds on a proud tradition of creative arts education spanning more than 150 years. Our campuses at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham and Rochester are home to more than 7,000 students from over 70 countries studying on courses in art, design, architecture, media and communications.

About Interreg and ICR

University for the Creative Arts is the Lead Partner on the ICR (Interregional Culture-led Regeneration) project, working in partnership with eight other UK and French organisations. ICR is a project selected under the European Cross-border Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVA France (Channel) – England, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

ICR aims to stimulate the growth of the creative and cultural industries in the South and East England Coastal region and Pas-de-Calais, Normandy and Brittany region through a range of creative and collaborative cross-border initiatives.

Websites for further information: www.interreg4a-manche.eu
www.ucreative.ac.uk
www.thesculpturequestion.com
www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk

Information

Quarterhouse

Mill Bay
Folkestone CT20 1BN (just off Tontine Street)
www.quarterhouse.co.uk or 01303 760 750

Trains

High-speed trains run regularly from London St Pancras International (journey time 57 minutes). The last return train from Folkestone to London is at 22:56. Folkestone Central Station is a short walk from the centre of town and approximately 15 minutes walk from Quarterhouse. National Railway Enquiries – 08457 484 950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Arriving by car/parking

From the M20, turn off at junction 13 and follow signs to the Harbour. (SAT NAV USERS – CT20 1BN). The nearest car parks are Tram Road (2 mins), Payers Park (2 mins) and the Harbour car park (5 mins). All council car parks charge daily fees starting from £1.20 per hour. During weekends there is limited parking behind Quarterhouse which requires a parking permit that can be obtained from Quarterhouse for £3 per day.

Taxis

JJ's Taxis: 01303 244 442
Premier Cars: 01303 270 000

Triennial Visitor Centre

3-7 Tontine Street
Open daily, 10am-5pm (Folkestone Triennial artworks also open daily, 10am-5pm)