

Culture and the Unconscious (London, July 11/12 2003)

Susannah Radstone

Call for Papers

Culture and the Unconscious: Psychoanalysts, Artists and Academics in Dialogue

Conference to be held on July 11th and 12th 2003, at School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1.

Jointly organised by the British Psychoanalytical Society, the Tavistock Clinic and the University of East London

Confirmed Keynote Speaker: Prof. Slavoj Zizek

Outline of Conference

Psychoanalysis has always wandered beyond the consulting room. Alongside clinical texts, Freud and his followers wrote speculatively on art and artists, politics, war and civilisation, and this cultural engagement has been fully sustained by later analytic generations. The creative arts and literature have been widely admired by psychoanalysts, many of whom believe that creative artists have conveyed the deepest of all understandings of unconscious mental life. More recently, psychoanalysis in many hues has permeated cultural criticism and the universities, influencing studies of film, television, the visual arts, biography, fiction, theatre and poetry, and other art forms. Although psychoanalysts and academics are often drawn to the same painting, film or play, their approaches commonly use psychoanalysis differently and address different audiences.

Until now, conversations between these three worlds of psychoanalysis, the academy, and the creative arts, have rarely taken place. Such conversations will form the basis of Culture and the Unconscious, an international interdisciplinary conference that will bring together psychoanalysts and psychotherapists, artists and academics to discuss such fields as film and television, literature, drama and poetry, the visual arts, and biography. Through these conversations Culture and the Unconscious will bring together the worlds of psychoanalysis, academia, and the creative arts. It will

produce a lively, illuminating and thought-provoking event that should be of interest to all those interested in psychoanalysis and culture.

Conference Themes Will Include:

- Creativity and the artist
- Culture and emotion
- Culture as resistance
- Psychoanalytic aesthetics
- Genres and the unconscious
- Morality and art.

Call for Papers and Contributions

Offers of papers or other contributions for the above Conference are invited. These may be from psychoanalysts or psychoanalytic psychotherapists, academics, critics or journalists, or creative artists. They may also be for panels involving co-operation between any of these participants. Contributions may be focused on a particular genre of work (for example film or poetry), a particular artist or writer, or a particular psychoanalytic perspective. Because the purpose of the conference is to facilitate dialogue between these different spheres of work, the organisers will be particularly pleased to receive proposals for collaborative or joint sessions between psychoanalysts, academics and artists. We will also however be very glad to receive offers of individual conference papers.

The Conference will have both plenary sessions, with speakers drawn from the different contributing fields, and smaller panel sessions. The organisers will discuss with those offering contributions what would be the most appropriate setting for the presentation and discussion of their work.

Offers should be made to the Organising Committee at the email or postal address given below, by November 30 2002. They should take the form of an abstract of not more than 500 words.

Conference Organising Committee

Caroline Bainbridge, Christine Clegg, Marilyn Lawrence, Susannah Radstone, Michael Rustin, Candida Yates.

Offers of papers to Prof Michael Rustin, School of Social Sciences, University of East London, Barking Campus, Dagenham RM8 2AS

ArtHist.net

(<mailto:m.j.rustin@uel.ac.uk>>m.j.rustin@uel.ac.uk).

Reference:

CFP: Culture and the Unconscious (London, July 11/12 2003). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 7, 2002 (accessed May 15, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/25252>>.