

## Dematerialisation(AAH, Nottingham, UK, 1.-4.4.04)

Jonathan Vickery

ASSOCIATION OF ART HISTORIANS Annual Conference 2004: Old/New?  
University of Nottingham  
1-4 April 2004

CALL FOR PAPERS

PANEL: 'Dematerialisation: The Entry into Postmodernity'

PROPOSAL DEADLINE : 1 NOVEMBER 2003

In the history of art there cannot be a shorter chronological period that has been ascribed the status of cultural epoch than 1966-1972, the years surveyed by Lippard's classic document, *Six Years: The Dematerialisation of the Art Object* (1973). The art, criticism and theory of this epoch still provide key historical reference points for contemporary art in Britain and in the USA, and have been instrumental in securing the intellectual priority of New York for subsequent debates around postmodernism. In dominant art historical narratives Minimal art, anti-form, systems, conceptual art, earth and process art have been characterised as the entry into artistic postmodernity, decisively challenging the hierarchies of aesthetic value embedded in the forms, materials and mediums associated with modernism, its institutional spaces and conventions of viewing.

This session invites papers that investigate the legacy of the generative moment of 1966-1972. How did the aesthetic concepts that emerged during these 6 years – repetition, seriality, theatricality, process, materiality, negation, structure, and the situated, embodied beholder - inform the first waves of theoretical speculation on the character of artistic postmodernity? Was the process of dematerialisation conceived in terms of the complete dissolution of 'the aesthetic' as a unique category of experience, or did the movements of 1966-72 offer a radically transformed conception of the aesthetic? Is our understanding of 1966-72 locked within the postmodernist critique of modernism? Or does the art and theory of this epoch offer the intellectual resources to think beyond the current congealed radicalism of postmodernist paradigms?

Each speaker will have 30 minutes: 20 minutes for paper and 10 for

questions.

Session Organisers:

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Reference:

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