

symposium sculpture/design (Brighton 14-15 Jan 05)

Gillian Whiteley

A symposium at the Faculty of Arts and Architecture, University of Brighton 14-15th January 2005

The relationship between sculpture and design is relatively unexplored but a potentially rich field for interdisciplinary attention. The notion that an appreciation of formal values in sculpture would lead to an equivalent ability to recognise well-designed goods of manufacture has its roots in the 19th century. This view was taken forward in subsequent decades by pioneering educational programmes, by cultural commentators and by critics positing a direct relationship between modern sculpture and mass-produced items of everyday use. Making for the market - whether it comprises buyers of art objects or consumer goods - artists and industrial designers have shared education, materials, skills and processes. While artists have explored the sculptural resonances of industrial and three-dimensional design, so designers have appropriated the forms, language and discourse of sculpture. Into the 21st century, sculptural values have continued to shift and sculpture has colonised domestic space, the workplace and the social environment; industrial design and functional objects now occupy the gallery. From the earliest ready-mades to multiples, the mass-produced has found itself re-located, re-displayed and re-interpreted.

This symposium seeks to explore the relationship between sculpture and design and sculptors and designers. It will consider aspects of education, authorship, making and manufacture, display, consumption and critical reception.

The organisers, Catherine Moriarty (University of Brighton) and Gillian Whiteley (Loughborough University School of Art and Design), invite proposals for papers which address these themes. Abstracts, no longer than 400 words, should be sent electronically to g.whiteley@lboro.ac.uk or c.moriarty@brighton.ac.uk by 1 September 2004.

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