

Sculpture in Arcadia (Reading, 26 Feb 06)

Sue Malvern

Call for papers

Sculpture in Arcadia: gardens, parks and woodlands as settings for sculptural encounters from the 18th to 21st century.

26 February 2007

University of Reading

This one day symposium will ask about the characteristics of sculpture planned for Arcadian and pastoral settings. What is the nature of the sculptural encounter when sculpture is viewed outside the museum or urban setting, and what are the sculptural meanings generated in such contexts? How have gardens and sculpture trails been planned so as to propose scripts for the visitor's viewing experience? What kinds of audiences have been imagined for such works? What connections can be traced between eighteenth-century garden sculpture and their modern equivalents? How have the uses of terms such as 'pastoral' and 'arcadian' changed? What kinds of connotations - gendered, aesthetic, political - are invoked when 'nature' and 'sculpture' are brought into juxtaposition? We are interested in the settings for sculpture including architectural structures such as pavilions and plinths, and formal and informal planting in gardens, parks and managed woodland. While eighteenth-century gardens and modern sculptures have been studied extensively in the context of their particular periods, this symposium aims to trace the connections, continuities and discontinuities between the earlier period and contemporary pastoral settings for sculpture, including the contemporary preservation and re-presentation of eighteenth-century sculpture for modern audiences.

This symposium takes place at the University of Reading, close to some of the most celebrated eighteenth-century gardens in Europe, Stowe and Rousham, but we invite papers from all periods from the eighteenth century to the present day and in all European and North American contexts.

Please submit proposals for papers along with a 300-word abstract to Dr Sue Malvern, Dr Eckart Marchand and Dr. Gerhard Bissell by 8th October 2006.

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/28371>>.