

Sculpture in Arcadia (Univ Reading UK 26 Feb 07)

Gerhard Bissell

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

February 26th 2007, 11am – 6.30pm
University of Reading, Nike Theatre

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? Papers will explore 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.

Papers cover all periods from the eighteenth century to the present day in Europe and North America.

Sue Malvern, Eckart Marchand and Gerhard Bissell.
Department of History of Art and Architecture
School of Humanities
The University of Reading

Whiteknights
PO Box 218
Reading RG6 6AA

Cost: 40 including lunch, refreshments and wine reception. Concessions
and students: 15 (please supply proof of status at time of booking).

To book, and for details of the symposium venue, please contact:

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<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/humanities/>

Programme

Registration from 10 am.

11- 1:

Chair: Eckart Marchand

Keynote Speaker

Dr Ulrich Müller, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena,
Rousham's Arcadian Fields

Marcus Becker, Humboldt Universität, Berlin

Meeting Immaterial Gods? Copies of Antique Sculptures in German
Sentimental Landscape Gardens

Robert Neal, University of Essex,

Adorning nature: emblematic sculpture in the early eighteenth-century garden

Agnieszka Whelan, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia

On the statuary in the 18th century garden of Pulawy in Poland

Lunch

2-4

Chair: Gerhard Bissell

Keynote Speaker

Dr Patrick Eyres, New Arcadian Press and University of Leeds,

A Peoples' Arcadia: the public gardens of Ian Hamilton Finlay in
relation to Little Sparta

Katie Campbell, University of Bristol

Updating Elysium: Twentieth-Century Memorials: Sculpture and Settings

Rebecca Reynolds, University of Chicago,

The Green Cube: Developing a Site for Minimalism at Storm King in the early
1970s

Tea

4.30 – 6.30

Chair: Sue Malvern

Keynote Speaker

Professor Antje von Graevenitz, University of Cologne,

The Avant-Gardener Ian Hamilton Finlay in 'Little Sparta, Stonypath': an arcadia - by no means.

Joy Sleeman, Slade School of Fine Art and Nick Alfrey, University of Nottingham

'The contemporary 'sculpture park' is not - and is not considered to be - an art garden, but an art gallery out-of-doors.' Ian Hamilton Finlay

Plenary discussion

Symposium close and reception

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Reference:

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