

Uncertainty of the Image (London, 19 Apr 07)

tim gough

The Uncertainty of the Image

Conference: 19th April 2007

2.00pm - 5.30pm

Timetable:

Thursday 19th April 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Lecture Hall, Camberwell College of Arts Wilson Road Site (on the corner of Wilson Road & Peckham Road - a short walk from Camberwell Green), London UK

1.40 Arrival

2.00 Welcome by Martin Newth - Subject Leader Photography Camberwell College of Arts

2.05 Introduction by Helen Robertson - conference organiser

2.10 David Company - writer, artist, Reader in Photography University of Westminster

2.45 Helen Robertson - artist, Associate Lecturer in Photography and Fine Art Camberwell College of Arts & Byam Shaw School of Art

3.20 Jonathan Lahey Dronsfield - philosopher, Reader in Theory & Philosophy of Art University of Reading

3.50 Tea break

4.10 Joanna Lowry - writer, Reader in Visual Theory and Media arts at the University College for the Creative Arts at Maidstone

4.45 - 5.30 Discussion chaired by Paul Tebbs - writer, Senior Lecturer in Photography Camberwell College of Arts

No booking required

Information

The signifier "photographic image" has always been related to an unstable

signified, one dependent on the type of camera, film, processing and printing used. Each decision made along the way of production effects the quality and reading of the image. Now, traditional processes are being replaced by new digital technology. Certain traditional processes such as cibachrome have been phased out in this country; certain printing papers and films are no longer made; others will be phased out in the near future. Our time represents a unique situation, as many traditional technologies still exist alongside the newer digital ones.

We are thus presented with an expanded and time-specific choice as to how a photograph can be taken and displayed - each decision producing subtle shifts in the appearance and materiality of the image. A theorisation of the impact of these media on each other is yet to be developed. This conference proposes a discussion of the conceptual implications that these co-existing photographic processes give rise to in the contemporary moment.

This conference has been organised by Helen Robertson, and is supported by Camberwell College of Arts and the Arts Council England.

Speakers

David Company is an artist, writer and Reader in Photography at the University of Westminster. He is the author of the books *Art and Photography* (Phaidon 2003) and *Photography and Cinema* (Reaktion 2007). His essays have appeared in numerous catalogues and anthologies as well as journals such as *Aperture*, *Tate*, *Engage* and the *Oxford Art Journal*. 'Adventures in the Valley' his photographic collaboration with Polly Braden was shown at the ICA London in 2005.

Jonathan Lahey Dronsfield is Reader in Theory and Philosophy of Art at the University of Reading in the UK, and sits on the Executive Committee of the Forum for European Philosophy at the London School of Economics. He has published many articles in continental philosophy, in particular on art and on ethics and on art's resistance to ethics. Currently he is working on two books, *Responsibility in contemporary French philosophy* and *Heidegger's Philosophy of Art*, and writing two screenplays, one for a film he is directing on Heidegger's journey to Greece, *Aufenthalte*, the other for a film of Derrida's *La carte postale*.

Joanna Lowry is Reader in Visual Theory and Media arts at the University College for the Creative Arts at Maidstone. She was a co-founder with David Company and David Green of *Photoforum*, an organisation committed to the promotion of debate on photographic theory and practice - and was co-editor of 'Stillness and Time', *Photoworks 2006*, a book on the relationship between the still and moving image based upon a conference held at UCCA in 2004. She has written widely on contemporary photographic and fine art practices, both academically and in the art press. Current research

interests are the relationship between photography and painting and related issues of medium specificity; the studio as a site of performance, work and play; technology and the construction of space and subjectivity.

Helen Robertson is an artist working with photographic media, sculpture, painting and installation. She is currently working on an Arts Council funded project, developing a new body of figurative photographs (made using a variety of traditional and digital photographic processes) - the links between the photographs are conceptual and pictorial rather than thematic or technical. This work is part of a broader investigation into the photographic image and materiality involving sculpture, painting and installation. Solo exhibitions include Galerie Nei Licht, Luxembourg 2002, Fiedler Contemporary, Cologne 2001, Ausstellungsraum, Leipzig 2000, Matt's Gallery London 1999. Group exhibitions include La Nuite Blanche, Paris 2006, "Size Matters", Arts Council Touring Exhibition 2005, Outvideo, Russia 2004, "Abstractionen", Museum Ludwig Cologne 1999. She is an Associate Lecturer in Photography and Fine Art at Camberwell College of Arts and Byam Shaw School of Art, University of the Arts London.

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