

Dwelling, Walking, Falling (Manchester, 13-14 Feb 2009)

David Lomas

DWELLING, WALKING FALLING: A CONFERENCE ON THE EXPERIENCE OF EVERYDAY SPACE
Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, February 13-14

How do we experience space? How do we navigate and inhabit the city? The conference "Dwelling, Walking, Falling" addresses the social, political and psychoanalytical modes through which we encounter and interact with urban space. The focus will be on the individual and collective experiences of architecture and urbanism, and the ways in which these experiences operate at the levels of everyday reality as well as imagination and fantasy. In order to develop a set of more accurate tools with which to approach this psycho-social nexus, we will let ourselves be guided by experimental practices and theories in the fields of twentieth- and twenty-first century art and architecture, engaging with the role of play, desire and fear within urban and architectural experience, focusing on liminal states such as sleepwalking or getting lost, and mapping out relations between falling bodies, urban decay, or abandoned spaces.

Friday 13 February, 2:00 - 7pm

Session 1 The Politics of Walking

Susan Laxton (Columbia University), 'The Politics of Errance: Surrealists in the Streets'

David Pinder (Queen Mary, London), 'Errant paths: walking in shadows and light' (provisional title)

Session 2: Spaces of Disaster

Simon Baker (Nottingham University), 'Ruins: the ruin of ruins, or, how we got along after the bombs'

Steven Pile (Open University), 'Falling Bodies: 9/11 and the (dis)embodiment of memory'

Drinks and visit of the exhibition

Saturday 14 February, 10 am - 5pm

Session 3: Progress and Decay

Richard Williams (Edinburgh University), 'The Politics of Eros: Sexuality and

Modernist architecture in Brazil, 1930-60'

Judith Rodenbeck (Sarah Lawrence College, New York), 'Venetian Snares'

Session 4: Liminal States

David Lomas (University of Manchester), 'Sleep/Walking'

Steven Gartside (Manchester Metropolitan University), 'Sitting Still: reading, writing and the city'

Session 5: The Pull of Gravity

Catherine James (Christie's Education, London), 'Gravity and Fantasy: Vertigo'

Arnauld Pierre (Université Paris IV-Sorbonne), 'To Move in Gravitational Space, 1960s-1970s'

Keynote paper: James Meyer (Emory University, Georgia), 'From Nomadism to Cosmopolitanism'

Registration fee: £30 (£15 student concessions).

For more information about the conference, please contact:

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For registration, please contact Leanne Lightfoot by email

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Reference:

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