

Artists' Writings (London, 4-6 Jun 09)

Linda Goddard

Conference

Artists' Writings 1850 - Present

The Courtauld Institute of Art

Somerset House, Strand

London WC2R 0RN

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre

14.30 - 18.00, Thursday 4 June 2009 (with registration from 14.00)

10.00 - 17.30, Friday 5 June 2009 (with registration from 09.30)

10.00 - 17.00, Saturday 6 June 2009 (with registration from 09.30)

Despite Matisse's warning that 'he who wants to dedicate himself to painting should start by cutting out his tongue', artists in the modern period have frequently expressed themselves in writing (whether memoir, fiction or theory). This conference will ask what motivates artists to write, how they view the relation between their visual and textual practice, and how they use writing to manipulate or challenge the public reception and critical interpretation of their work. Challenging the myth of the visual artist as an intuitive anti-intellectual, it will demonstrate the extent and diversity of artists' contributions to modern literature and criticism in various languages. It will also investigate how scholars interpret these texts: are they works of art in themselves or simply evidence about the artist's life and craft? Do they conceal as much as they reveal? How has the role and perception of artists' writings changed over time?

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 4 June

14.00 - 14.30 Registration

14.30 - 16.00 SESSION 1 - Interpreting Artists' Writings: Intention and Authority

Nicholas Chare (University of Reading), Matters of Fact: David Sylvester's Interviews with Francis Bacon

Christina Rosenberger (Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art,

Harvard University Art Museum), The Last Word? The Role of Artists' Writings in the Conservation of Modern and Contemporary Art

Anna Lovatt (University of Nottingham), Sol Le Witt's Automated Art

16.00 - 16.30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

16.30 - 18.00 SESSION 2 - Correspondence: Between Public and Private

Julie F. Codell (Arizona State University), Private into Public: Rhetorical and Professional Systems in Victorian Artists' Letters

John House (Courtauld Institute of Art), Working with Artists' Letters

Duncan White (Central St Martins) and Dave Smith (artist), Facsimileology: Artists' Writing and Mechanical Reproduction in an Age Obsolete

18.00 RECEPTION

Friday, 5 June

09.30 - 10.00 Registration

10.00 - 11.00 SESSION 3 - The Artist as Critic 1

Peter Cooke (University of Manchester), Gustave Moreau, Painter-Writer

James Faure Walker (artist; Camberwell College of Arts), The Origins of Artscribe

11.00 - 11.30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11.30 - 13.00 SESSION 4 - Fact and Fiction

Bridget Alsdorf (Princeton University), Vallotton's Murderous Life: Autobiography and the Ethics of Perspective

Lisa Tickner (Courtauld Institute of Art), Artists' Fiction: George du Maurier's Trilby and Wyndham Lewis's Tarr

Sylvia Karastathis (University of Cambridge), Artists' Papers in Contemporary Fiction: The Cases of Gwen John and Dora Carrington

13.00 - 14.00 BREAK FOR LUNCH

14.00 - 15.30 SESSION 5 - The Artist as Educator

Grace Brockington (University of Bristol), Walter Crane and the Universal Language of Art

Julia K. Dabbs (University of Minnesota, Morris), Empowering the Nineteenth-Century American Woman Artist: May Alcott Nieriker's Studying Art Abroad & How to Do It Cheaply (1879)

Ann Compton (University of Glasgow), „How to Do It“: Re-reading the Sculpture Manual in the Context of Early British Modernism

15.30 - 16.00 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

16.00 - 17.30 SESSION 6 - Writing as Art

Nina Parish (University of Bath), From Mallarmé to Sadin via Brodthaers: What has Become of the Livre d'Artiste?

Yvonne Kyriakides (artist), The Shadow Speaks: An Artist's Reflections on a Fusion of Visual and Textual Practice

Rachel Sloan (independent art historian), In Love with Words: Maurice Denis, 'Les Amours de Marthe', and Amour

17.30 RECEPTION

Saturday, 6 June

09.30 -10.00 Registration

10.00 - 11.00 SESSION 7 - Genre and Identity: Between Word and Image

Richard Hobbs (University of Bristol), Sonnets: Edgar Degas, Claudio Popelin, and the Poetry of Generic Constraints

Emma Kimberley (University of Leicester), Painted Words and Spoken Images in the Work of Derek Walcott

11.00 - 11.30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11.30 - 13.00 SESSION 8 - Shifting Identities: Writing the Self

Aurélie Verdier (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), „Ego Scriptor“: Avant-garde, Polemics and Francis Picabia's Writing of the Self

Michelle Letowska (artist), Saying too Much: The Artist's Statement

Peter Maber (University of Cambridge), Painted Letters: The Later Writings of Roger Hilton

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 - 15.30 SESSION 9 - The Artist as Critic 2

Dina Ramadan (Columbia University), Writing for Art and Freedom: Understanding Aesthetics and Ideology in 1940s Egypt

Kenneth Bendiner (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Ford Madox Brown: Word and Paint

Deborah Schultz (University of Sussex), Textual Evidence: Intention and

Insincerity in the Writings of Marcel Broodthaers

15.30 - 16.00 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

16.00 - 17.00 Concluding Discussion

Organised by Dr Linda Goddard

To book a place: £40 (£20 concessions) Please send a cheque made payable to 'Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Co-ordinator, Courtauld Institute of Art Research Forum, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, clearly stating that you wish to book for the 'Artists' Writings 1850 - Present conference'. For credit card bookings call 020 7848 2785/2909. For further information, send an e-mail to ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk.

Reference:

CONF: Artists' Writings (London, 4-6 Jun 09). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 19, 2009 (accessed Jan 18, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/31457>.