

The Art of Evolution (London, 2-4 Jul 09)

Cynthia de Souza

The Art of Evolution: Charles Darwin and Visual Cultures

Thursday 2 - Saturday 4 July 2009

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art
Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

In this Darwin bicentenary year, the full impact of the research and theories of the naturalist who spent most of his life at Down House, Kent, is coming to the fore. Few intellectual disciplines have remained untouched by the thought of Charles Darwin, as revealed by visual cultures in the form of art, anthropological, medical, and scientific imagery, as well as the popular images that feature in the press. This is the subject matter of the conference and events to be held under the title, The Art of Evolution: Charles Darwin and Visual Cultures, at The Courtauld Institute of Art, 2-4 July 2009.

The Art of Evolution: Charles Darwin and Visual Cultures will explore the impact of Charles Darwin on visual cultures through the examination of aesthetics, the museum, slavery and concepts of indigenous people, as well as the representation of animals. It will investigate the repercussions of Darwin's theories upon images of the body, eugenics and genetics, sexualities, Surrealism, film and contemporary art. Including exhibitions and film screenings, the conference will conclude with a reading of Justin Fleming's provocative new play, *Origin*, directed by Wayne Harrison.

The book, *The Art of Evolution: Darwin, Darwinisms and Visual Culture*, co-edited by Barbara Larson and Fae Brauer, will be launched at this conference.

The conference is also offered in conjunction with a lecture by Professor Dame Gillian Beer FBA (University of Cambridge). Her lecture, organised in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust, is entitled *The Backbone Shiver: Darwin and the Arts*, and will take place 6.45 - 7.45pm, Wednesday, 1 July 2009, at the Henry Wellcome Auditorium, Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE. See website for details and booking form:

www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/calendar.shtml

To book a place: Conference only: £70 (£30 students/concessions).
Gillian Beer lecture only: £10. Please complete a booking form
(available at www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/conferences/darwin). The
form can be used to book either the lecture or the conference or both.
Send the form with 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. For credit card
bookings call 020 7848 2785/2909. For further information, send an
e-mail to ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk

Organised by Fae Brauer, Barbara Larson and Gavin Parkinson

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 2 July

09.15 - 09.45: Registration

09.45 - 10.00: Welcome: Professor Deborah Swallow (Director, The
Courtauld Institute of Art)

SESSION 1 – Darwin and Aesthetic Theory

Chair: Barbara Larson (University of West Florida)

10.00 - 10.30: Barbara Larson (University of West Florida), Darwin,
Burke, and the Sublime

10.30 - 11.00: Marsha Morton (Pratt Institute), Art's "Competition
with Nature": Darwin, Haeckel, and the Scientific Art History of Alois Riegl

11.00 - 11.30: Sabine Flach (Zentrum für Literatur-und Kulturforschung
Berlin), Reflections on the Development of a Theory of Representation in
the Work of Darwin and Warburg

11.30 - 12.00: Discussion

12.00 - 13.30: BREAK FOR LUNCH

12.45 - 13.15: The Courtauld Gallery – tour available of selected works.

Please note places are limited (maximum 20 people) and can be booked at
registration.

SESSION 2 – Darwin and the Museum: Curating Darwin/ism

Chair: Barbara Larson (University of West Florida)

13.30 - 14.00: Arthur MacGregor (formerly of the Ashmolean Museum),
Delayed Reactions: Early Responses and Non-Responses to Darwin in the Museum

14.00 - 14.30: Pat Simpson (University of Hertfordshire), Representing
Darwin: Art, Taxidermy, and Bio-politics at the Darwin Museum Moscow,
1907-2009

14.30 - 15.00: Monique Scott (American Museum of Natural History),
Color-Coding Darwin in the Museum

15.00 - 15.30: Discussion

15.30 - 16.00: TEA/COFFEE BREAK

SESSION 3 – Darwin, Slavery and Indigenous Peoples

Chair: Jeanette Hoorn (University of Melbourne)

16.00 - 16.30: Cannon Schmitt (University of Toronto), *The Mirror of Evolution: Fuegians, Orang-utans and Other Reflections*

16.30 - 17.00: Sarah Thomas (University of Sydney), *Slavery, a "Scandal to Christian Nations": Charles Darwin, Augustus Earle and the Compass of Morality*

17.00 - 17.30: Jeanette Hoorn (University of Melbourne), *Tom Roberts' Portrait of Charlie Turner and Darwin's Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*

17.30 - 18.00: Discussion

18.00 - 20.00: RECEPTION

including Book Launch: *The Art of Evolution: Darwin, Darwinisms and Visual Culture*, co-edited by Barbara Larson and Fae Brauer (The University Press of New England, 2009. 344 pp. 85 illus. 6 1/8 x 9 1/4". \$50.00 Cloth, 978-1-58465-775-0)

Friday, 3 July

09.10 - 09.40: Registration

SESSION 4 – Becoming Animal

Chair: Fae Brauer (University of East London; The University of New South Wales)

09.40 - 10.10: Maria P. Gindhart (Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, Georgia State University), *Apes and Ape-men: Frémiet, Kupka, and the Jardin des Plantes*

10.10 - 10.40: Serena Keshavjee (University of Winnipeg), *'L'Esthétique et les Squelettes d'Animaux': Eugène Carrière and Evolutionary Theory at the Comparative Anatomy Gallery in Paris*

10.40 - 11.10: Rikke Hansen (Tate Britain), *"Almost the Same": Animals, Ambivalence and Mimicry*

11.10 - 11.40: Giovanni Aloï (Editor in Chief of *Antennae*, *The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture*; Queen Mary University of London), *Different Becomings: The Work of Marcus Coates and Oleg Kulik*

11.40 - 12.00: Discussion

12.00 - 14.15: BREAK FOR LUNCH

including: Book Fair in The Courtauld's Front Hall

12.30 - 14.15: Film Screening: *Max, Mon Amour*, directed by Nagisa Oshima

SESSION 5 – Darwin and Surrealism

Chair: Gavin Parkinson (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

14.15 - 14.45: Marion Endt (Henry Moore Foundation), *The Coral of Life*

14.45 - 15.15: Donna Roberts (independent scholar), Darwin and Surrealism: Instinct, Play and the Nocturnal Face of Nature

15.15 - 15.45: Gavin Parkinson, (The Courtauld Institute of Art), Surrealism and King Kong: A Tale of Darwinian Exoticism

15.45 - 16.15: Discussion

16.15 - 16.45: TEA/COFFEE BREAK

SESSION 6 – Darwin and Sexualities

Chair: Whitney Davis (University of California, Berkeley)

16.45 - 17.15: Whitney Davis (University of California, Berkeley), Homoeroticism, Sexual Selection, and the Sense of Beauty

17.15 - 17.45: Jeremy Melius (Yale Center for British Art), Pleasure as Pain in Grant Allen's Darwinian Aesthetics

17.45 - 18.15: Caroline Arscott (The Courtauld Institute of Art), Plugged Burrows: Aestheticism and Earthworms

18.15 - 18.45: Discussion

19.00 - 20.00: Keynote: Barbara Creed (University of Melbourne), Darwin's Pre-Cinematic Eye: Evolution and Metamorphosis in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Saturday, 4 July

09.30 - 10.00: Registration

SESSION 7 – The Darwinian Body: The Biocultures of Eugenics and Genetics

Chair: Fae Brauer (University of East London; The University of New South Wales)

10.00 - 10.30: Fae Brauer (University of East London; The University of New South Wales), The Fitness Imperative: La Culture Physique, Eugenics and the Darwinian Body

10.30 - 11.00: Christina Cogdell (University of California, Davis), The Gene in Context: Organic Complex Systems as a Model for Generative Architecture

11.00 - 11.30: Suzanne Anker (School of Visual Arts, New York City), Darwin and the Complete Makeover

11.30 - 12.00: Discussion

12.00 - 13.30: BREAK FOR LUNCH

including: Book Fair in The Courtauld's Front Hall

12.45 - 13.15: The Courtauld Gallery – tour available of selected works. Please note places are limited (maximum 20 people) and can be booked at registration.

SESSION 8 – Photography and the Darwinian Screen

Chair: Barbara Creed (University of Melbourne)

13.30 - 14.00: Barbara Creed (University of Melbourne), The Hollywood Musical as Darwinian Mating Game

14.00 - 14.30: Jonathan Smith (University of Michigan, Dearborn), Darwin, Photography, and the Expression of Emotions

14.30 - 15.00: Phillip Prodger (Peabody Essex Museum), Laughing and Crying, Kicking and Screaming: Babies as Blank Slates in Darwin's Photographs

15.00 - 15.30: Discussion

15.30 - 16.00: TEA/COFFEE BREAK

SESSION 9: Darwin and Contemporary Art

Chairs: Sara Barnes and Andrew Patrizio (Edinburgh College of Art)

16.00 - 16.30: Bergit Arends (Natural History Museum, London), After Darwin: Contemporary Expressions

16.30 - 18.00: Tania Kovats and Phyllida Barlow in Conversation

18.30 - 20.00: Play Reading: Origin, by Justin Fleming, directed by Wayne Harrison, taking place in Portico Room, First Floor, Somerset House

The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

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<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/index.shtml>

Reference:

CONF: The Art of Evolution (London, 2-4 Jul 09). In: ArtHist.net, Jun 11, 2009 (accessed Apr 30, 2026),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/31666>>.