Art Criticism Now (Nottingham, 26 Mar 14)

University of Nottingham, Mar 26, 2014
Deadline: Dec 31, 2013

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Art criticism now has a confusingly disparate public identity: on the one hand, highly visible populist journalism, obsessed with blockbusters and the commodified clichés of Hirst-Emin; on the other hand, theory-heavy analysis, often academic. And then there is 'Artwriting', which seems to fuse creative writing with an ideology of anything goes. Must we share Peggy Lee's sense of resignation: 'Is that all there is'? What would a more inclusive map of contemporary criticism look like? What do we expect of criticism? Who is it for? Who writes it? Where is it published? How have new media changed the status of criticism? Can we compare criticism across different media? Are there examples from the past which suggest how criticism should or should not engage with art and artists, according to what criteria? What has happened to Baudelaire's injunction that criticism should be 'partial, passionate and political'? Proposals from critics, editors, readers, artists alike are welcome addressing any aspect of recent art criticism.

Confirmed speakers:
Stephen Parnell (Architecture, Nottingham), Criticism in the Architectural Review
Sam Thorne (Frieze) The Crises of Criticism
Matthew Bowman (Essex) Art Criticism in the Contracted Field

Please send proposals to Richard Wrigley (richard.wrigley@nottingham.ac.uk)

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