Object Lessons (Leeds, 3 Oct 15)

Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK, Oct 03, 2015
Deadline: Mar 20, 2015

Rebecca Wade

Call for Papers

Object Lessons: Sculpture and the Production of Knowledge

This conference will consider the philosophical, pedagogical and epistemological implications of the ‘object lesson’ for the production, display and reception of sculpture in the nineteenth century. The object lesson was developed by the influential Swiss educationalist Johann Heinrich ‘Henry’ Pestalozzi in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and extended in Britain by the siblings Elizabeth and Charles Mayo in the early nineteenth century. Beginning with the concrete object, direct experience and observation, the object lesson provided a mode of encountering the world through form, material and process. The object lesson was intended to operate without recourse to written language by providing an unmediated account of its own properties through a guided encounter. The belief in the capacity of teaching collections to produce and circulate knowledge was shaped by the political, intellectual and moral economy of the nineteenth century and a utilitarian rather than the connoisseurial model of the academy and the art gallery.

Papers are invited which might consider, but are not limited to:
- The production, collection and display of sculptures as didactic objects
- The formation of teaching collections for the education of sculptors
- The idea of knowledge embedded in materials and their natural and industrial transformations
- The relationship between object lessons, illustrations and teaching manuals
- The afterlives of nineteenth-century teaching collections

The conference is programmed alongside the exhibition 'Object Lessons' in Gallery 4, opening on 30 September 2015. Please send a 250 word abstract and a short CV to Dr Rebecca Wade (rebecca.wade@henry-moore.org) by 20 March 2015.

Reference:
CFP: Object Lessons (Leeds, 3 Oct 15). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 26, 2015 (accessed Nov 23, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/9574>.