

How Near is Here?

Symposium on Locality
10am – 5pm, Monday 8
September 2014
Meadowbank Sports Centre



A collective enquiry centred on locality – a complex term that refers to geographical surroundings, the people occupying an area, and the buildings and spaces that define it. The programme brings together artists, organisations and academics working across the field of art and/in ‘the urban’, examining why locality is a contested and widespread concern. Key questions posed will be ‘What constitutes the local now?’ and ‘What role does art (and culture) play in constructing a locality?’

Morning Session

9:30am | Registration

10am | Alexandra Baudelot (Les Laboratoires d’Aubervilliers, Paris), Janna Graham (The Centre for Possible Studies) and Kate Gray (Collective) present and discuss approaches to working ‘locally’, chaired by Julie Crawshaw

Alexandra Baudelot has been co-director of les Laboratoires d’Aubervilliers (Paris northern suburbs) since 2013 and has worked for several years as an exhibition curator, editor and author. She is interested in production strategies, the artistic research process and reflections on the role of artwork and ways of sharing it with the public for all disciplines.

Kate Gray has been involved in a range of artist-run initiatives over the years with a focus on the possibilities of involving publics in the production of visual art projects. Kate was appointed Director of Collective in 2008 and in 2013 moved the organisation into new premises in the Old City Observatory complex on Calton Hill.

Janna Graham is a writer, organiser, educator and curator based in London. Janna is currently Projects Curator at Serpentine Gallery where she and colleagues have initiated The Centre for Possible Studies, an off-site research centre where artists, thinkers and local people develop ‘possible studies’ in relation to the Edgware Road neighbourhood of London.

12.30pm | Keynote: Fulya Erdemci (Curator of the 13th Istanbul Biennial)

Fulya Erdemci is a curator and writer based in Istanbul and Amsterdam. Fulya was co-curator of the 13th Istanbul Biennial in 2013, which explored the contested idea of the public domain through a series of commissions and public events. She was the Director of SKOR Foundation For Art and Public Domain in Amsterdam between 2008 and 2012. Her projects at SKOR include: ‘Morality Wall: Between You and I’, in

collaboration with Witte de With, Rotterdam, 2010 and 'Actors, Agents and Attendants', international research, symposium and publication series.

1:30pm | Lunch (provided)

Afternoon Session

2:30pm | Breakout sessions led by Julie Crawshaw, Mitch Miller and Dennis McNulty

Mitch Miller is an artist based in Glasgow, who produces large scale, highly detailed and annotated drawings of places called 'dialectograms'. He is interested in the documentary potential of illustration, collective story telling and depicting space through conversation; and has been working with Collective as part of *All Sided Games* over the past year.

Julie Crawshaw is interested in the way art works amidst contexts of development. She graduated in Fine Art from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee. To better understand what art does in circumstances of developing and transitional economies she undertook an MSc in Development Studies; and later completed a PhD in Planning. Her research draws on anthropology and philosophies of multiplicity.

Dennis McNulty's work is generated through an investigation of embodied knowledge in relation to other forms of knowledge, in the context of the built environment. His works are informed by studies in psychoacoustics and often take hybrid forms, drawing on

aspects of cinema, sculpture, sound and performance. Dennis is currently working with Collective on *All Sided Games* in and around MOD's Barry Buddon Training Centre.

4pm | Keynote: Albena Yaneva (The University of Manchester) | *Thinking Through Place: How to Map the Local?*

Albena Yaneva is Professor of Architectural Theory and Director of the Manchester Architecture Research Centre (MARC) at the University of Manchester. She is also a Visiting Professor at Princeton School of Architecture. She is the author of several books, of particular relevance to *How Near is Here? is Mapping Controversies in Architecture* (Ashgate, 2012). Albena is the recipient of the RIBA President's award for outstanding research (2010). Her research is intrinsically trans-disciplinary and crosses the boundaries of science studies, cognitive anthropology, architectural theory and political philosophy.

How Near is Here? has been developed in response to and part of Collective's *All Sided Games*, a series of off-site commissions, placing artists in and around venues built or used for the Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 Commonwealth Games and in venues used for the Glasgow 2014 Games. It brings people together to make work of mutual interest.

COLLECTIVE

