

# A Labour of Love

Symposium

Saturday 21 February 2015

1—5pm

What does it mean to love work? Our willingness to work, or the expectation to be passionate and enthusiastic at work, can have significant implications on how we perform as artists and cultural workers.

*A Labour of Love* is a public symposium that will stimulate discussions about the practical experiences of art working and the impact of post-crash economics on art and ideas. With contributors including artists Marianne Flotron, The New School of Economics (Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck) and Rehana Zaman this afternoon of presentations, films and discussion reflects on contemporary labour and how the work of the artist is tied to wider economic and political shifts.

*A Labour of Love* has been devised by Jenny Richards and produced by Moira Jeffrey in association with Collective and supported through the public engagement programme for GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland. The income from tickets prices will go towards commissioning an artist's response to the event from Amelia Bywater that will be shared with all participants.

1pm | Reclaim the Tea Break

Refreshments for all provided by Bakery 47, Glasgow. *A Labour of Love* introduction by Jenny Richards.

1.20pm

Film: *Metahaven City Rising*, 2014

Models by Constant Nieuwenhuys, words by Brian Kuan Wood.

1.30—2.30pm

Presentation: Rehana Zaman, *Some Women, Other Women and all the Bittermen*

Rehana will discuss her recent work *Some Women, Other Women and all the Bittermen*, which contrasts contemporary labour struggles with work place narratives from the Tetley Brewery, founded in Leeds. She will reflect on the different types of relationships cultivated within artistic collaborations.

Jennifer Bailey artist and committee member of the artist-run space Transmission will begin questions.

2.30—3.30pm

Presentation: Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck *The Alternative School of Economics Work till you drop: Pensions and Precarity*

Ruth and Amy will reflect on their work through the project The Alternative School of Economics. Their presentation will focus on their current research into pensions and how they function in relationship to state finance and the global economy.

Kirsty Hendry from Edinburgh's artist-run Embassy Gallery will begin questions.

3.30—3.50pm | Afternoon Tea Break

3.50—4.50pm

Presentation: Marianne Flotron *Work*

Marianne Flotron will present *Work* and consider the different structures of self-management and discipline exposed through the film as well as the processes involved in developing long-term collaborative-based project.

Sian Robinson Davies from the artist-run gallery and studios Rhubaba will begin questions.

4.50—5pm | Closing remarks

6pm | After Work Dinner

If you can stay, please join us for a curry cooked by Leith's Punjabi Junction.

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**Metahaven** is a design and research studio based in Amsterdam. The studio utilises designed forms and aesthetics to engage in political dialogue. Metahaven's work can be seen in lectures, publications, video, exhibitions, and a number of print and web campaigns. Forthcoming projects include a web-episodic documentary *The Sprawl* on memetic geopolitics, produced with The Space and Lighthouse Arts.

**Rehana Zaman** is an artist based in London. Her multi-channel video *Some Women, Other Women and all the Bittermen* (2014) intersperses a fictional soap opera about a corporate takeover from the perspective of employees with documentary fragments filmed by and about female migrant workers thus examining shifts in worker relations from the 1980s to the present day. Zaman's videos and performances take up anecdotes and short stories to examine moments of particular socio-political resonance.

Zaman's solo presentations include *Some Women, Other Women and all the Bittermen* (2014) The Tetley, Leeds, Projections Art Rotterdam, *What an Artist Dies in Me/Exit the Emperor Nero*, OUTPOST, Norwich and *I, I, I and I*, Studio Voltaire, London (both 2013). She completed her MFA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths in 2011 and was a LUX Associate Artist 2012/2013.

**Jennifer Bailey** is an artist based in Glasgow. Her work is about the mechanisms of subjectivity and an investigation into the visual codes that constitute authenticity.

Her practice sometimes takes her family, particularly her sister, as participant, subject or material. Recent projects include exhibitions at Intermedia, CCA, Glasgow and Glasgow International Festival. She is currently serving on the committee of Transmission, Glasgow and has been involved in commissioning projects that examine working methodologies.

**Transmission** is an artist-run gallery set up in 1983 by graduates from Glasgow School of Art who were dissatisfied with the lack of exhibition spaces and opportunities for young artists in Glasgow. Transmission provides a place where artists can meet, talk and exhibit along with local and international peers and influences. The gallery is managed by a voluntary committee of six people. Each member of the committee serves for up to two years and is then replaced.

**The Alternative School of Economics**, run by artists **Ruth Beale** and **Amy Feneck**, uses the practice of self-education to study economics, creating a framework for investigating political, social and cultural issues. Economics is part of the politics of everyday life. The banking crisis of 2007/2008 has created a new demand upon the general public, to understand the workings of the economy and how it affects our lives. **The Alternative School of Economics** acknowledges this and turns it on its head, so that economics (the study of money and the systems of exchange) becomes the creative study of everything: politics, geography, conflict, sociology and social relations, viewed through the lens of day-to-day reality and personal experience.

**Kirsty Hendry** is an artist living and working between Glasgow and Edinburgh, and has served as a co-director of EMBASSY Gallery since February 2013. Forthcoming projects include *Cursor*, a commission by New Media Scotland's Alt-W award, and a written contribution to *Gnommero: Multiplicity*. Recent writing projects include *The Process of Content and Studio Jamming* at Cooper Gallery Dundee

**EMBASSY** is a non-profit making artist-run gallery founded in 2004. The gallery holds a yearly programme of exhibitions, events and off-site projects. Each year it also co-

ordinates the Annuale festival; a presentation of grassroots artistic activity in various venues throughout the city. EMBASSY has a rolling committee of 5 to 7 members who work on a voluntary basis and are supported by a members' base. The committee are responsible for all aspects of the gallery and serve as directors for a 2-year period. Current committee: Kirsty Hendry, Sally Sears-Black, Joe Harvey, Suzanne van der Lingen, Fintan Ryan, Dane Sutherland and Jake Watts.

**Marianne Flotron** is an artist based in Amsterdam. In her work she is interested in the interrelationship between political and economical systems and human behavior. Recent video works examine the manipulation of emotional behavior for economic goals including the role of the workplace and the relationship between work and leisure time. Her video installation *Work* examines the relationships between staff at a multi-national insurance company based in the Netherlands using the methods of the *Theatre of the Oppressed* developed by Brazilian political theatre practitioner Augusto Boal.

After two years of studies in history in Zurich, Flotron earned her degree at the School of Fine Arts of Geneva in 2001. From 2007 until 2008 she was in residence at the Rijksakademie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. *Work* was commissioned for Flotron's solo show at Kunsthalle Bern in 2011. Other recent exhibitions include *Monumentalisme*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2010), *Motores utopicos, sensores reais*, Galeria Quarta Parede, Sao Paulo (2011), *Schon wieder und noch mal*, Kunstverein Medienturm, Graz (2011).

**Sian Robinson Davies** is an artist based in Edinburgh who works in performance and writing. She is part of the collaborative project **Internet** and a voluntary member of the Rhubaba committee.

**Rhubaba Gallery and Studios** is an artist-run organisation in Edinburgh that provides studio space for artists and an annual programme of exhibitions and events. Rhubaba was founded in 2009 as a communal studio and project space. Established in response to a perceived gap in appropriate studio provision for recent

graduates and through the desire to create a space dedicated to both the production and presentation of contemporary art, Rhubaba initially housed ten recent graduates from Edinburgh College of Art. Rhubaba is run by voluntary committee members: Peter Amooore, Sian Robinson Davies, Lara Macleod and Tom Nolan.

**Amelia Bywater** works predominately through a collaborative project, Victor & Hester, with artist Emma Fitts. They have been working together since 2010, adopting live events, installation, an online journal and occasional print publications as temporary social spaces, to think through labour, documentation and distribution. An upcoming exhibition at Transmission Gallery looks to relocate a collection of questions around a feminist reading of labour, technology, intimacies and companionship to the physical space of the gallery, exploring tensions between language, architectural space and the bodies that move/work within and between these frameworks.

**Jenny Richards** is the co-director of Konsthall C, Stockholm. Her essay *After the crash. Before the Crash. Crash.* was published as part of the GENERATION reader in 2014. Current projects include *Manual Labours* with Sophie Hope exploring physical relationships to work and Home Economics (2014) investigating the politics of the domestic sphere. Recent writings include: *We Build Families: The Aesthetics of Domestic Labour* with Marissa Begonia and Louise Shelley and *Loving Work* with Sophie Hope. Richards graduated in painting from Edinburgh College of Art in 2007. In 2012 she completed an MA in Art and Politics from Goldsmiths University. She has been Gallery Manager of Cubitt Gallery, London and Programme Manager of Collective in Edinburgh.

**Maira Jeffrey** is a writer and journalist based in Glasgow. She teaches journalism at Glasgow Caledonian University and was editor of the GENERATION handbook and reader, published by the National Galleries of Scotland in 2014. She received a Jerwood Critical Writer's residency at Cove Park in 2009 and will be a True North resident at Timespan, Helmsdale in February/March 2015.

Thank you to all the speakers and respondents and to Jill Brown, James Bell, Siobhan Carroll, Naomi Garriock, Kate Gray, Georgia Hogan, Tom Nolan and Frances Stacey. Particular thanks to Jenny Crowe, GENERATION Project Manager.

**Collective** is a contemporary visual arts organisation that delivers an exciting and ambitious programme of new exhibitions, commissions and projects.  
[www.collectivegallery.net](http://www.collectivegallery.net)

**bakery 47** was founded by Sam and Anna Luntley in their home kitchen in Glasgow's Southside in 2013. They are in the process of opening their first premises at 76 Victoria Road, Glasgow.

**Punjabi Junction** opened in March 2010 to provide Minority Ethnic (ME) women with training and employment opportunities, develop confidence and reduce social exclusion and promote and sustain the Sikh culture in Edinburgh. The café is a social enterprise with the profit made being used to support the charity's core activities.

**Basic Mountain** was founded by artist Naomi Garriock, a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art. The venue, a purpose built Victorian dance studio, provides meeting and studio/event space with a particular emphasis on the visual arts community.