

## THE NUCLEAR FORUM

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### James Acord

James Acord is an artist who works directly with radioactive materials. He attempts to create sculpture and events that probe the history of nuclear engineering. For 15 years he lived on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, at one time home to nine nuclear reactors and five plutonium-processing complexes and the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States. One major project was his ambition to build a 'nuclear Stonehenge' on a heavily contaminated site at Hanford, incorporating twelve uranium breeder-blanket assemblies. Acord is the only private individual in the world licensed to own and handle radioactive materials, and acquired possession of spent nuclear rods as part of his artistic materials. In 1997, The Arts Catalyst invited Acord to the UK, where he undertook a residency at Imperial College, London, and showed a series of new commissions resulting from this residency as part of Arts Catalyst's *Atomic* exhibition (London, Nottingham and Bovec, Slovenia). He has spoken on art and nuclear science at both art and nuclear industry events in the US and the UK and organised forums bringing together artists, activists and nuclear industry experts. He currently lives and works in Seattle.

#### Keith Barnham

Keith Barnham is an Emeritus Professor of Physics at Imperial College London. He started his research career as an Elementary Particle Physicist at Birmingham University, CERN, Geneva and University of California Berkeley before joining Imperial. In mid-career he "saw the light" and switched his research interest to solar cells partly by spending a year as an industrial fellow at Philips Research Laboratories, Redhill. His interest in solar energy was also stimulated by a study he made with colleagues from "Scientists for Global Responsibility" on the fate of the plutonium produced in the UK civil nuclear reactors. He has co-founded a company "QuantaSol" which aims to exploit a novel solar cell developed by his group at Imperial.

#### Paul Dorfman

Paul is Senior Research Fellow and Finnish Academy Research Fellow at the NHS Centre for Involvement, University of Warwick. Spokesman of the UK Nuclear Consultation Working Group. Member of the Ministry of Defence ISOLUS (Interim Storage Of Laid-Up Submarines) Steering Group (MISG) and Independent Advisory Group (IAG). Project Team Member and Steering Group Member to SAFEGROUNDS (Safety and Environmental Guidance for the Remediation of Nuclear and Defence Sites). Served as Secretary to the UK scientific advisory Committee Examining Risks from Radioactive Internal Emitters (CERRIE). Advisor to the Policy Interpretation Network on Childhood Health in Europe (PINCHE). Paul recently edited a widely read and reviewed Report - *Nuclear Consultation: Public Trust in Governance*, pp. 88, Available at: <http://www.nuclearconsult.com/>

### **Simon Hollington & Kypros Kyprianou**

Simon Hollington and Kypros Kyprianou are artists. They have been working together since 1999, as well as having individual practices. Their work has been shown at the Venice Biennale 2005, the ICA, London, and at exhibitions and film festivals internationally. Documentation of their recent work with the British Atomic Nuclear group can be found at [www.electronicsunset.org/node/1282](http://www.electronicsunset.org/node/1282).

### **Kate Hudson**

Kate Hudson has been Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament since 2003 and is active in the peace and anti-war movements nationally and internationally. She first became active in the peace movement in the early 1980s, participating in the mass protests against cruise missiles. She is also Head of Social and Policy Studies at London South Bank University and is the author of a number of books, including *CND Now More than Ever: the story of a peace movement*.

### **Steve Kurtz**

Steve Kurtz is a professor of art at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, former professor of art history at Carnegie Mellon University and a founding member of the art group, Critical Art Ensemble, a collective of artists dedicated to exploring the intersections between art, technology, radical politics and critical theory. The collective has performed and produced a wide variety of projects for an international audience at diverse venues ranging from the street, to the museum, to the Internet. Critical Art Ensemble has also written six books on various aspects of cultural resistance. Its writings have been translated into 18 languages. ([www.critical-art.net](http://www.critical-art.net)). Kurtz is currently artist in residence at SymbioticA, School of Anatomy and Human Biology, The University of Western Australia.

### **Rob La Frenais**

Rob La Frenais is a curator and critic who has curated and produced interdisciplinary and visual art projects since 1987. Before joining The Arts Catalyst at curator in 1997, he was a freelance curator and organiser working in a European context in various countries, including being the Chief Executive of the Edge Biennale Trust in London and Madrid and the Artistic Director of the Belluard-Bollwerk International in Switzerland. In 1979 Rob founded the groundbreaking Performance Magazine, which continued as an authoritative cultural voice in Europe until 1992. He has a PhD in curatorial practice across disciplines and is an honorary Doctor of Arts at Dartington College of Arts.

### **Gustav Metzger**

Gustav Metzger is an artist and political activist who developed the concept of Auto-Destructive Art. Metzger was born to Polish-Jewish parents in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1926 and came to Britain as a refugee under the auspices of the Refugee Children Movement. He was a leading exponent in the Art Strike movements and was also involved in the Fluxus movement. He was an active in the Committee of 100 and took part in their early rocket base campaigns of direct action and occupation. In 1959 he published the first auto-destructive manifesto *Auto-Destructive Art*. Together with John Sharkey, he initiated the Destruction in Art Symposium in 1966. Metzger has continued

to make challenging art works around the world. In 2005 he selected EAST international which he proclaimed to be "The art exhibition without the art." He lives and works in East London.

### **Chris Oakley**

Chris Oakley is an artist filmmaker whose work is mainly concerned with technology and its effects on our perception and the way in which we communicate. Past work has explored mediated experience in its many forms, from the culture of the camcorder to the ubiquity of the telephone conversation. His recent work, *Half-Life*, commissioned by The Arts Catalyst and SCAN, explores the cyclic history of nuclear research in the UK. It was originally inspired by a period of employment at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, occupying an office with a view through the perimeter fence into the Harwell site. During this period he never had the opportunity to pass the police gates.

### **Pam Skelton**

Pam Skelton is an artist and Senior Lecturer at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and a Research Associate of ICVAR (International Centre for Fine Art Research) and PARC (Photography and the Archive Research Centre) University of the Arts, London. Her projects are often interdisciplinary exploring the interface of private and public memory and colliding and contested histories. Recent projects include, *Burning Poems*, 2nd Moscow Biennale, 2007, and *Conspiracy Dwellings* mapping the Stasi Archive. [www.conspiracydwellings.net](http://www.conspiracydwellings.net). Her work has been shown in Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Russia and Northern Ireland.

### **Helen Sloan**

Helen Sloan has worked as a curator, researcher, writer, editor and producer in media arts and culture since late 1980s. Since 2003, she has been Director of SCAN, a networked organisation and creative development agency for media arts in the South of England working on media arts projects and strategic initiatives in arts organisations, academic institutions and further aspects of the public realm. Helen has worked both freelance and as a curator at organisations such as Camerawork, FACT, ICA and Site Gallery as well as directing festivals such as Across Two Cultures in Newcastle 1996 (an early conference on the overlapping practice of creative thinking in arts and science) and Metapod, Birmingham 2001 - 2. Current areas of interest and curatorial work include the points of intersection of science and culture, immersive environments, media arts and the creative economy, nanotechnology, and wearable and soft technologies.

### **Nicola Triscott**

Nicola Triscott is a cultural producer, working in the performing, interdisciplinary and visual arts. She founded The Arts Catalyst in 1993. As Director of Arts Catalyst, she has built alliances internationally between disciplines and commissioned more than 60 art projects that critically and experimentally engage with science. Nicola writes and speaks regularly at international conferences on the interrelationships between art, science, technology and society. She is the NESTA Arts & Environment Fellow on the Clore Leadership Programme and a visiting researcher at London South Bank University.

## **John Wills**

John Wills studied at Warwick and Bristol before taking up the post of Lecturer in American History at the University of Kent. He is the author of *Conservation Fallout: Nuclear Protest at Diablo Canyon* (2006) and co-author of *The Invention of the Park: Recreational Landscapes from the Garden of Eden to Disney's Magic Kingdom* (2005) and *The American West: Competing Visions* (2009). He is currently working on a book about environmental doomsdays.