

ARTS & ECOLOGY

Ecology and Artistic Practice Symposium

Thursday 28 April 2005 10.00 – 18.30 at the RSA, London

Can artists make a difference? Is it the task of art to point out solutions to ecological problems? What are artists currently doing in response to these issues?

10.00 Introductions

Michaela Crimmin RSA Head of Arts

Declan McGonagle Symposium Chair

Critic and Curator, Director of Interface, Centre for Research in Art, Technologies and Design and Chair of Art and Design, School of Art and Design, University of Ulster, Belfast

10.15 Keynote paper: *Prospects for a Transdisciplinary Ecology*

Prof. Gary Genosko Associate Professor of Sociology at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada, author of *Félix Guattari: An Aberrant Introduction* and *The Uncollected Baudrillard*, Canada Research Chair in Technoculture Studies

'In 1989, French activist-intellectual Félix Guattari published a slim but influential volume with the title *Les trois écologies* [*The Three Ecologies*, English trans. 2000]. This presentation takes up the key ideas presented in Guattari's bold tri-ecological vision involving biospherical, social, and mental dimensions. In a detailed consideration of Guattari's thought, I explain that his real innovation was to develop the relationship between subjectivity and ecology. Guattari believed that ecology, generalized as ecosophy, could help summon forth new, productive traits of subjectivity. His positive models were drawn from a range of arts, and in his view aesthetics had to be supported by an ethical responsibility that traversed micro- and macro-levels of concern. The prospects of transdisciplinarity as a non-transcendent ecology of knowledge are explored through ecosophic aesthetic and ethical practices.'

11.15 Curatorial case study

Clare Cumberlandidge, Director, General Public Agency, curator of *Visionary Thurrock*, a series of cross-disciplinary investigations involving international visual artists, architects and theorists in the Thames gateway

12.00 Studio Visit: artists profiling their work – Part I

Nils Norman, London-based artist, recent exhibition projects include a solo shows at Galerie Christian Nagel Berlin, his work has been shown at Tate Britain, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Hayward Gallery London. He has participated in the Havana Biennial, and Utopia Station at the 50th Venice Biennale.

Ecology and Artistic Practice Symposium

Thursday 28 April 2005 at the RSA, London

13.00 Lunch Break

Served in The Vaults, Level –2

14.00 Studio Visit: artists profiling their work – Part II

Allora & Calzadilla, Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla live and work in Puerto Rico. They recently exhibited in *Commonwealth* at Tate Modern, as well as Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Walker Art Center, ICA Boston, and the Gwangju and Moscow Biennials.

Kayle Brandon and Heath Bunting, Bristol-based they have created the ongoing web project irrational.org; their work has been exhibited at Tate Modern, CCA Glasgow and last year at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York

15.30 Coffee Break

Served in The Vaults, Level –2

16.00 Round table Discussion: Is the role of art to devise pragmatic solutions?

Chair: **Declan McGonagle**

Henrik Håkansson, Berlin-based artist had recent solo projects include Dunkers Kulturhus in Sweden and De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam; group shows include the 50th Venice Biennale, *The Greenhouse Effect* at the Serpentine Gallery and 2004 Sao Paulo Biennale

Dan Peterman, Chicago-based artist whose recent solo shows include MCA Chicago and Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; group shows include the Skulptur-Biennale Münsterland and *Ecologies* at the University of Chicago (with Mark Dion and Peter Fend)

Solitaire Townsend, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Futerra, London, the specialist sustainable development communications company providing businesses with training and strategies to promote sustainable development and corporate responsibility

Jane Trowell, Co-Director, Platform, a London-based artist collective founded in 1983, promoting creative processes of democratic engagement to advance social and ecological justice

Jan Verwoert, writer and Guest Professor of contemporary art and theory at the Academy of Umeå; he regularly contributes to art magazines including *frieze*, *Afterall* and *Camera Austria*

18.00 Pay Bar

The Vaults, Level –2