

Speaker Outlines

Session One

Group A:

Becky Beinart

I will present material from the Orchard Project in Sneinton Market, Nottingham:

<http://www.orchardsneinton.co.uk/> I will give some general background to the project, a commission by Neville Gabie, curated by Jennie Syson. I will discuss the project I produced as part of the project (the Sneinton Market meals) and the legacy of the project a year on. I would also like to talk briefly about current regeneration plans around Sneinton in Nottingham, the research I'm undertaking as part of the Wasteland Twinning <<http://wasteland-twinning.net/>> network and the 'Cultural Quarter' gentrification plan.

Dr Suzanne Hall

I will concentrate on the idea of 'ordinary streets' as space of common urban currency that transmits direct forms of exchange and expression. I turn to the commonplace logic of street to explore everyday transformations and the updating of the city through immigration, adaptation and urban multicultural. I'll focus on Peckham Rye Lane, and explore the intersections and divergences between independent shops, local interest groups, and local government organisations. For further details, please see:

<http://secities.net/objects/research-projects/ordinary-streets>

as well as:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415688659/>

Group B:

Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd - The Drawing Shed

The drawing shed artists Sally Labern and Bobby Lloyd would like to explore with others a socially engaged practice in which the aesthetic is content-driven, experimental and critical, and in which the 'dialogue' of participation is not the only intended product of the artists' work. They will frame this by introducing key projects in their current practice in East London through which they explore ideas in relation to territory, migration, identity and the imaginative transmission of difference.

Nabeel Hamdi

Nabeel will introduce his book *Small Change: About the Art of Practice and the Limits of Planning in Cities*, which explores participatory models of urban development.

Group C:

Albert Potrony and Katie Orr

Artist Albert Potrony and I would like to facilitate a session around an ongoing durational project that began in July 2010 which is still continuing. We'd like to probe and interrogate ideas around art practices that engage with (and are informed by) notions of 'community' and question how this is done through art practices that seek to be multi-authored. We'd also like to explore ideas of how a sense of place can be understood primarily through its people, and rather than through specific sites or locations.

Sarah Mossop

Sarah will talk about Modern Art Oxford's Art in Rose Hill's programme - methodologies of engagement and the public art projects, which varied in practice from socially engaged, participatory and performative.

Group D:

Dr Ben Campkin

Regeneration as abjection

Based on over ten years of research on the histories of various large-scale and long-term

regeneration sites in London, this talk will set out to define 'regeneration' and explore how official and unofficial historical narratives are woven into the discourses that accompany it. I will propose that with the shift towards neoliberal urban management, propelled by images of material and social decline, we can think of the regeneration of London's most diverse areas as a kind of abjection which enacts the exclusion of unwanted others.

Alan Piper

Alan will talk about his long-standing interest in conservation issues which began nearly 40 years ago, when a final-year student thesis provided the opportunity for in-depth exploration of the redevelopment options for a substantial area around Railton Road, Brixton. This work helped the local community to persuade Lambeth Council to adopt area improvement policies rather than widespread demolition and rebuilding.

He will also discuss The Brixton Society, which originated with residents' groups in similar areas around Brixton combining their energies to champion its neglected Town Centre. Gradually this has led to a growing network of conservation areas, buttressed by various improvement initiatives. Alan has written a number of publications, mainly for the Brixton Society, but the most significant is *The History of Brixton*, originally published in 1996 and the first profile of the area since 1825.

Session Two:

Group A.

Oliver Sumner

Will discuss:

1. Introduction of Delta Arts. Delta Arts works internationally, creating situations for artist exchange and exploring social art practice through mobility.
2. our past work in the context of the neighbouring Somerstown Estate in Portsmouth currently undergoing regeneration, and our current move away from working with a local community.
3. The Golden Threads programme of fellowships about the artist in society in Beirut, Copenhagen and London (I have images and copies of the Golden Threads book).
4. The position and function of the artist in society, international exchange, and how varying social and economic conditions shape the visual arts and artists.

Francesco Ponzo and Geraldine Takundwa

The Silent University is a knowledge exchange platform by and for asylum seekers and refugees who although having a professional background, are unable to practise their profession due to the limitations of the asylum process. They have become lecturers, academic consultants and research fellows of the Silent University.

The Silent University started with the goal to address and reactive the knowledge that is lost during the years that many asylum seekers wait to gain residency. The University also challenges the idea of silence as a passive state.

Refugee are involved on the silence process for several reasons: their professional life has been interrupted, they are not allowed to work and consequently to express themselves through their profession. Their status of refugee is insecure, and therefore for fear they don't express their issues. Silence can also describe a difficulty with the language, and the inability to speak, because English is not their first language. Silence can also express a state of worry about the family and friends left in the origin country, sometimes records of war and violence.

The Silent University is focused on some topic that are the understanding of the contemporary forms of migration and of the power of silence, access to knowledge and citizenship, alternative currencies. Anyway the Silent University it's open to many subjects as its lecturers propose.

You can join the Silent University or find out more on our website.

www.TheSilentUniversity.org, and on our facebook and twitter profiles.

Group B:

Eva Sajovic and Sarah Butler

Through *Home From Home*, *Studio at the Elephant* and *Collecting Home* projects, we will be discussing our long-term engagement in Elephant&Castle, an area undergoing a massive regeneration spanning more than 10 years.

We will be exploring the potential of these projects to act as spaces of resistance, through which individual's voices can be heard, seen and contribute towards a collective history (ownership) of a place.

In relation to this we would like to revisit and extend some of the conversations had in the past:

- subjectivity created through discussion;
- power relations involved where an artist creates work with communities;
- truth in such forms of representation.

To conclude we would like to consider the value of sustainable presence of the artist in a place.

Jeanne Van Heeswijk

Jeanne will discuss various recent durational art projects – see <http://www.jeanneworks.net/>

Group C:

Claire Dwyer

Faith in Suburbia: a shared photographic journey

In my talk I will reflect on a photographic project undertaken with six senior citizens from different faith communities in West London. Working with award winning photographer Liz Hingley (*Under gods: stories from Soho Road*) the participants visited each others places of worship to take photographs. They then worked together to select photographs for an exhibition held at UCL in January 2013 and which will then go to Gunnersbury Park Museum in Ealing and to the participating places of workshop. The project explored ideas about continuity and change in the making a suburban landscapes and the role of faith and migration in shaping local places. I will also reflect on the process of undertaking collaborative work with different faith groups.

Damian Le Bas

In terms of urban redevelopment and regeneration, the place of the Gypsy is perhaps especially contentious: a historical attachment to mobile homes or, in their absence, single storey accommodation, is easily portrayed as a desire for 'special treatment' at a time when most people are grateful for four walls and a roof of any kind.

ii. AVENUES FOR DISCUSSION:

What light might the Gypsy experience shed on the perception of urban space and the future of its maintenance and regeneration? Can it ever be ethical, or even rational, to argue from history to present need? Is it utterly fatuous, for example, to imagine a Romany family arguing along Zionist lines for the right to retake Gypsy Hill and Rommany Road, SE19? What roles can traditional documentation strategies play in preserving the heritage of people whose artefacts are often assumed to be confined to the ephemeral realms of memory and spoken language? What possibilities of progress and social solidarity can emerge from folk histories in which friction, the perception of separateness, mistrust and genocide play such a large part? Finally, what moral onus is there on those outside such communities to care about these questions?

Group D:

Sarah Tuck

I am interested in current contestations over space, and political debates around ownership and belonging of/to place – in particular how socially engaged/public art practices that develop 'provisional communities/collectivities' are part of a cultural retrieval of a documentary aesthetic that has been discredited and neglected.

Ben Tunstall

The Right to the City aims to become a UK-wide campaigning organisation that redefines how

we understand our cities. We believe that the city is made by and belongs to everyone who lives in it. Just as we collectively shape the city, we all have a Right to the City, but we do not all have the power to exercise this right.

Our aim is to help redress this balance, protecting minority, low income and working class communities from being forced out, rejecting policies that encourage social paranoia, promoting economies that work for all, and places that enable people to live differently, to assemble and protest.

In the long term, we aim to promote collectivity, self-management, equity and economies that promote social value. We are explicitly opposed to displacement, spatial segregation, state-led gentrification and continuing privatization. We believe that alternatives can be found.

The Right to the City aims to be a banner that names, unifies and gains mutual support for urban struggles in the UK. We seek to bring together grassroots campaigns, local knowledge, academic analysis and new creative thinking to change the terms of debate about our cities.

In an era when the changes taking place in our cities threaten to be greater than ever, we believe it is urgent that a strong collective voice makes clear this position to the public at large. We believe that in the context of the current depression, for the first time in a generation our political landscape has opened up a new set of possibilities – which need to be shaped by concerted, collective action.