



Mark Wallinger *The World Turned Upside Down* 2019. © Damian Griffiths

Contemporary Public Art in the Urban Landscape

A collaborative event run by the British Art Network and Contemporary Art Society
Tate Exchange, Tate Modern
Friday 7 February 2020
11:00-17:30

This seminar will unite two Subject Specialist Networks: the SSN for British Art led by Tate and the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art and the SSN for Contemporary Art led by the Contemporary Art Society.

The day will focus on different aspects of contemporary art in the public and urban landscape. We will discuss public art and urban regeneration and question whether projects are led by a commitment to the community or whether they present corporate decoy strategies. Set up in the form of short presentations, followed by moderated discussions, the day will bring together public art producers, academics and curators who have been active in the field. Case studies from Belfast and Bristol will be presented and the question of the public will be addressed, as well as how the success of a project is measured and how existing models can be adapted and developed for future projects.

Schedule

11:00 – 11:30 Arrivals and registration

11:30 – 11:40 Welcome and introduction from Dr Cara Courage, Head of Tate Exchange, Tate and Vassilios Doupas, Curator of Programmes, Contemporary Art Society

11:40 – 12:30 Session One: *Public Art and Urban Regeneration: Advocacy and Critical Debates*

In the first session, we will discuss cultural strategies, the practicalities and the idealism that surrounds public art as well as the challenges and realities. Speakers include **Kirsten Dunne**, Senior Manager, Cultural Infrastructure and Public Realm at the Mayor's Office and **Claire Doherty MBE**, founder of Situations and one of the country's foremost producers of the arts outside conventional venues. Following their presentations, there will be a conversation moderated by **Donald Hyslop**, Head of Urban Culture and Community at Tate.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

During lunch there will be an opportunity to **watch videos** of some of the projects that will be discussed during the day, including Household's current project with Sol Archer, CAS Consultancy's latest public art commission at the Supreme Court as well as several projects curated and produced by Claire Doherty. There will also be an opportunity to play **Cards on the Table**, a game devised by Sophie Hope that encourages you to think and talk critically about a specific project that you are all working on together. It allows you to talk about doubts, fears and hopes in an open way. The goal of this game is to be honest about your different agendas, priorities and values; to listen and to adapt.

13:30 – 14:30 Session Two: *The social value of Public art: Collaboration, engagement, education: The example of Bristol*

In this section we will focus on Bristol, one of the UK's leading cities in public art commissioning. **Megan O'Shea**, Art Producer, CAS Consultancy, will speak about projects with the University of Bristol and their commitment to inclusivity and social engagement. **Shani Ali**, Artist in Residence at Room 13 Hareclive will talk about her work with children as well as Room 13. Finally, **Jack Gibbon**, Director of Bricks, will discuss some of the projects he's been involved in with a special focus on sustainability. A discussion will follow, chaired by **Georgina Bolton**, Public Art Officer at Bristol City Council.

14:30 – 15:15 Session Three: *Public Art in Post-conflict Society: The example of Northern Ireland*

We will also look at the role of public art in Northern Ireland through the eyes of **Amberlea Neely**, Director of Starling Start, which has been operating at the cutting edge of creative and inclusive public engagement in Northern Ireland's built environment and **Alissa Kleist**, Co-Director of Household curatorial collective, who will present their current project in Sailortown, Belfast. A discussion on the role and challenges of public art in Belfast will follow and will be moderated by **Daniel Jewesbury**, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, University of Gothenburg.

15:15 – 15:45 Q&A, an opportunity to ask questions about any of the projects in Bristol and Belfast

15:45 – 16:15 Tea Break

16:15 – 17:00 Session Four: *Assessing the Success of a Project and the Question of Public in Public Art*

This section will look at the question of the public, the value of a public art project and how this can be assessed. The discussion will be held between **Sophie Hope**, artist, curator and writer; **Daniel Jewesbury**, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art, University of Gothenburg and **Jordan Kaplan**, Art Producer, CAS Consultancy and will be moderated by Dr Cara Courage, Head of Tate Exchange.

17:00 – 17:20 Q&A chaired by Dr Cara Courage

17:20 – 17:30 Closing remarks from Sophia Hao, Director & Principal Curator, Cooper Gallery and British Art Network Steering Committee Member

17:45 – Area reserved at the Terrace Bar, Blavatnik Building if people want to continue discussions

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