

KS08

Kurt Schwitters & Walter Benjamin

The legacy of Entartete Kunst; Kurt Schwitters and Walter Benjamin, documenting the experiences of exile, refugee artists, and migrant workers in Britain



2008 Kurt Schwitters Herbst-Schule

3 – 5 October, the Merz Barn centre, Elterwater, Cumbria

Friday 3rd October, 7.30pm

Suitcase cultures; Walter Benjamin and Kurt Schwitters

Annual Kurt Schwitters lecture, Chapel Stile Village Hall

Professor Esther Leslie, Birkbeck College University of London

Saturday 4th October

Seminar 1

Researching Entartete Kunst and the Diaspora; reflections on the politics of displacement, migration, and artists in exile. Documenting the legacy of the Entartete Kunst, Walter Benjamin and Kurt Schwitters in exile, and the artists and academics interned on the Isle of Man, 1940 – 43.



10.00 – 10.10

Introduction / Chair Professor Hamish Ritchie (Chair German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London)

10.10 – 10.50

Dr Ines Katenhusen (University of Hannover)

'Entartete Kunst'. Its impact and legacy on the Schwitters circle in Hannover and elsewhere

10.50 – 11.25

Dr Karin Orchard (Schwitters Archiv, Sprengel Museum Hannover)

Kurt Schwitters in exile in Norway and England

11.40 – 12.15

David Harding

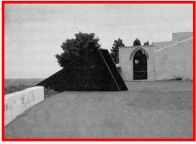
Walter Benjamin – PASSAGES, DVD project documenting Walter Benjamin's border crossing and suicide in Spain

12.15 - 13.00

Panel commentary and open discussion:

Professor Esther Leslie (Birkbeck), Dr Gwendolen Webster (Aachen),

Philip Oltermann (Guardian)



Seminar 2

Documenting contemporary experiences of exile; artists' projects with refugees and migrant workers. Recent art exhibitions and artists' projects documenting the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers and rural migrant workers in Britain and the NW.

14.00 – 14.30

Diane Rickerby

NEWROOTS a photographic project in partnership with Lithuanian and Slovakian migrant women workers in Maryport, Cumbria

14.30 – 15.00

Dr Cian Quayle (University of Chester)

Introduction to new study of the German artists and writers interned on the Isle of Man during WWII (1940 – 43)

15.15 – 15.45

Dr Dorothea Dietrich* (Corcoran College of Art + Design, Washington)

The Dilemma of Representation: German Artists after Nazism.

15.45 – 16.15

Philip Oltermann (Guardian Journalist)

Documenting Anglo-German meetings – Kurt Schwitters and Harry Pierce

16.15 – 17.00

Panel commentary and open discussion

Professor Janet Wolff (Manchester), Dr Isabel Schulz, David Harding artist, Glasgow

Chair: Craig Adamson – LITTORAL Trustee

19.00

Dinner and barbecue (weather permitting)

MERZ KABARET (German 1930s Kabaret music, performers to be announced)

* ,yet to be confirmed



GHOSTS – DVD film
by Nick Broomfield

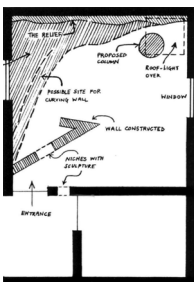


Diane Rickerby – video
installation 'Hear and There'



Sunday 5th October

Merz Barn project advisory committee meeting, and workshops



9.30 – 11 Meeting of the Merz Barn project advisory committee, Langdale Hotel (closed meeting)

Seminar 3

Future development of the Merz Barn site and Cylinders Estate. Conference splits into three workshop groups, followed by a round table discussion over a working lunch

11 – 13.00

Workshop options

(a) Proposals for a Kurt Schwitters in England study centre, a Merzbau museum and a refugee arts research/archive centre; Dr Isabel Schulz (Kurt and Ernst Schwitters Foundation), Dr Ines Katenhusen, Dr Gwendolen Webster, Dr Esther Leslie

* yet to be confirmed

(b) **The Restoration of the Merz Barn – conservation experts and architects on the future of the Merz Barn;** Derek Pullen (Tate Britain), Andrew Shepherd (Head of Conservation, Architecture Association), Adam Lowe (Factum Arte Madrid)

(c) **Development of the Cylinders Estate as a centre for sustainable rural crafts and art and environmental education;** Bill Lloyd (rural consultant), Edward Mills (Dir. Cumbria woodlands), Rebecca Oaks (Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust) *

13 – 14.30

Working lunch and open forum discussion

14.30 departure



Exhibitions and special projects at the Cylinders Estate (Merz Barn site):

I Packed This Myself Bridging Arts – a traveling suitcases project documenting the hundreds of migrant workers who work across Cornwall*

NEWROOTS – photographic exhibition project by artist Diane Rickerby in partnership with Lithuanian and Slovakian migrant women workers in Maryport

PASSAGES – Border Crossings – exhibition and DVD projects documenting the escape routes and experiences of Walter Benjamin and Kurt Schwitters in exile

Langdale Barns – a documentary exhibition about Cumbrian farming families and farm barns by Rob Fraser

GHOSTS – an award winning DVD by film maker Nick Broomfield, and supporting exhibition documenting the drowning of Chinese migrant workers on the cockle beds of Morecambe Bay sands in 2005

Seminar Bookings

Fees (teas/coffees/lunches included, Friday talk 3rd October is free)

Full professional rate £35 per day Unwaged/concessions £12 per day

Saturday 4th October

Saturday 4th October

Sunday 5th October

Sunday 5th October

Name/Title _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email / Phone _____

Please send with SAE to

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