

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 – 5th October, The Merz Barn, Cylinders Estate, 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.



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.

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

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

PASSAGES – DVD project about the Walter Benjamin memorial, Port Bou Spain, by David Harding and Ross Birrell

Border Crossings – images and texts documenting the routes into exile of Kurt Schwitters and Walter Benjamin

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 23 Chinese migrant workers on the cockle beds of Morecambe Bay sands in 2005