

## **Going the Way of the Dodo**

### **Symposium and artist presentations**

The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln, LN2 1LP

29<sup>th</sup> November 2013

10am -3pm



### **Synopsis**

*Going the Way of the Dodo* is a one-day symposium bringing together artists, historians and academics to collectively ask is the idea of the 'now' under threat as a 21<sup>st</sup> century concept? *Going the way of the Dodo* reflects upon the context and outcomes of Lincoln Art Programme's recent project *Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers*, a three day programme of artistic projects held in May 2013 that reflected upon the social, spatial and historical nature of a small isolated island located in Lincoln Brayford Pool. The projects artistic programme has already been assigned to the islands historical timeline. *Going the Way of the Dodo* re-visits the projects work alongside new presentations in the 'present' allowing from both an artistic and historical vantage point; to creatively explore how this event can return to a moment in a 'new position'.

The symposium will follow a structure set out under a series of loose thematic perimeters.

**10.00-10.15: Registration**

**10.15-10.30: Introduction by Lincoln Art Programme**

### **Responsive Narratives**

Taking influence directly from the site of the Brayford Pool these presentations address the mythologies and musings associated with areas questioning the border lines between assumed fact and understood fiction. The performances and presentations will adopt characters as a way of negotiating the representation of history.

**10.30 – 11.00**

**J. D. Swann** *'Extinction Events: Brayford Isle, the Dodo and the End of History'*(Calum F Kerr)

Appearing as J. D. Swann, Muswell Hill's leading ornithological investigator, Kerr will give an illustrated presentation that reflects on the Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers programme as a conversation with the Brayford Pool's wildlife. The presentation will reflect on associated histories of the site whilst questioning the possible end of history, with an appearance by Maurice the Dodo.

**11.00 – 11.30**

**Alexander Stevenson** *Tale Twisting*

Alexander Stevenson will re-perform his piece *Tale Twisting* that was presented over the *Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers* weekend with a new variation of the work. In the guise of a re-enactor Stevenson will bring to life stories and mythologies stemming from the islands history. Through the revised work Stevenson will attribute new and heard voices to the site.

**11.30 – 11.45****Questions to the presenters**

A short question and answer round to both Calum F Kerr (as J.D. Swann) and Alexander Stevenson.

**The Collapse of Time**

These presentations explore the relationship between spaces and time addressing the past, present and future and the overlaps between each, as we currently understand it. Exploring our own positions on our relationships to what is 'current'; the presentations will look beyond a local understanding and explore how time alters both globally, digitally and presently.

**11:45 – 12:15**

**Dr Chris Wright** *The Narrated Present*

Dr Chris Wright will look at time and space as a compressed moment alongside the idea of a continuum where past flows through to present. Whilst investigating the contrasts in the present, Wright will address the 'now's' relationships to globalisation and the super modern with the flow of information and reference to Henri Lefebvre.

**12:15 – 12:30 Questions to Dr Chris Wright**

A short question and answer round to Dr Chris Wright.

**12.30 – 13:00: Lunch****13:00 – 13:30**

**Dr Mark Palmer** *No Signal*

Dr Mark Palmer will address the issues of a technology dependent age when the moment is always an aspiration and never a lived experience. Questioning how we understand time in a world where we live with technology and begin to forget the larger reality that we live within. Palmer will form an argument towards a living experience not dependent on technology.

### **13.30 – 13.45: Questions to Dr Mark Palmer**

A short questions and answer round to Dr Mark Palmer.

### **Alternative Histories**

These presentations will investigate alternative versions of histories; posing the question; can we encounter multiple variations of a singular place or event through an ever-present digitalised world? The presentations will question the validity of information and the appropriation of material, exploring whether doctored information can still be a valid form to generate a history.

### **13.45 – 14.15**

**Elisa Adami** *Versions of History. How the Now will be Seen in the Future*

Elisa Adami will present a paper that explores the present through the perspective of a hypothetical future. By using the internet as a metaphor for a giant archaeological search, Adami will question the finds that an archaeologist of the future may come across in this 'digging of information', looking at the multiple version of one piece of information and how its variants should not simply be discarded as fake.

### **14.15 – 14.30**

**Questions to Elisa Adami**

A short question and answer round to Elisa Adami

### **14.30 – 15.00**

**Laura Mahony**

Laura Mahony will respond to the Brayford Isle through a presentation that considers the falsity of knowledge through an assumed personality. Observing the phenomena's of time, truth and the past Mahony will investigate how these elements can be measured using a bias rhetoric built on a certain amount of scientific fact. The presentation will reflect on the *Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers* project whilst connecting new pieces of information to the 'now' in her presentation.

**END**

### **Speakers Biographies**

#### **Lincoln Art Programme**

Lincoln Art Programme is a commissioning organisation based in the East Midlands. The organisation works with regional, national and international artists to bring new contemporary art to the region, with a focus on site specific performance. The organisation does not run from a gallery base but is nomadic responding to the sites and contexts of Lincolnshire. The Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers programme set out to explore the site and context of the Brayford Isle following speculation about buried treasure underneath its base.

### **Calum F Kerr**

Calum F. Kerr is an interdisciplinary artist; his work embraces sculpture, performance, sound and musical projects. Histories of place and characterisation are important, as is humour and direct engagement with the public. A peripatetic strain means performances are often outside or in spaces alternative to galleries and theatres. His work benefits from multiple, annual interrogations of locations including boating lakes, cemeteries and parks. He has performed as part of Fiona Templeton's *Bodies of Memory* at 'Acts of Legacy' (2012) and in Shezad Dawood's film 'FEATURE' (2009) at Tate Britain, 'The Cage' as part of the aas residency at New Art Gallery Walsall (2011) and 'Calling Out of Context' at the ICA (2010). He has also performed at international festivals in Bulgaria, Germany, The Netherlands, Spain and USA.

### **Alexander Stevenson**

Alexander Stevenson is a visual artist and project maker, often working with the perception of 'knowledge' (surrounding specific groups of people or institutions) to produce diverse outcomes that are analytical, witty and intriguing. These artworks intend to question the way in which we relate to knowledge and knowledge systems. This includes objects and activities that explore and challenge ways of archiving, our relationship to history, cultural appropriation, shared beliefs, personal myths, and the act of re-presentation. In 2013 he was commissioned by Lincoln Art Programme to be a part of the Red Herrings and Chinese Whispers programme he also participated in group shows at Grand Union in Birmingham and the Syson Gallery in Nottingham.

### **Dr Chris Wright**

Dr Chris Wright's main research interests concern the border and other transitional spaces which inform art practice. Through installation, expanded sculpture, photography and sound, she uses temporary and ephemeral interruptions to locate, re-locate and re-contextualise territory referencing what could be, what might be or what has been. During 2013 Dr Wright has been in group exhibitions in TAD Gallery, Texas, USA and Brewhouse in Burton-on-Trent, UK.

### **Dr Mark Palmer**

Dr Mark Palmer is a Senior Lecturer in Games Technology at the University of West England. His research focuses on the use of games and creative technology to examine issues of affect, embodiment and perception. The work that he is currently involved with covers an exploration of the use of biofeedback in games, the development of systems for patients to describe their perception of their body, games based interfaces for therapeutic devices, the effect of the Kinect upon perception of the body, through to the use of Arduino to create games that physically explore interactions with the immaterial.

### **Elisa Adami**

Elisa Adami holds a Master in Visual Culture from the University of Westminster. Her dissertation project titled *Unfinished Ruins. Artistic Re-elaborations of the Soviet Architectural Legacy*, was a survey of art practices dealing with the ruin aesthetic in the post-utopian and post-modernist geopolitical context of the former Soviet Union. Adami is the co-founder and co-director of Mnemoscape: an online publishing platform and network dedicated to contemporary art practices exploring issues of memory, history and the archival impulse. She is currently organizing *Archives for the Future*, an art and visual culture conference which will take place at the University of Westminster.

**Laura Mahony**

Laura Mahoney is a visual artist based in Lincoln, her practice intends to highlight contemporary art's social and cultural positioning in relation to its reflective audience. Her work is contained in the frameworks of performance, video and language. The barriers of artistic references are scrutinised, reflecting on the establishment, where academia and the rules of institution hold value over aesthetic presence. Laura has performed and exhibited predominantly in the UK, recent commissions have been for Lincoln Art Programme, Lincolnshire; Little Wolf Parade, Nottingham and Beacon Art Project, Lincolnshire.