Folkestone Triennial Conference
The Sculpture Question
Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November 2014

The Sculpture Question Research Group presents ‘The Sculpture Question’ conference in partnership with Folkestone Triennial and University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury, and is part-funded by Interreg IVA programme, a European Development Regional Fund initiative.

In a post-medium art world, the term ‘sculpture’ still has resonance and significance for artists who continue to align themselves with its histories and challenges. Yet over the last half century the practice of sculpture has increasingly positioned itself in the realms of installation, architecture, performance and design. In these inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary contexts, how might sculpture, as a discipline of fine art, continue to be taught and defined today?

Sculpture today is increasingly associated with the public realm; amid competing agendas of artists, curators, commissioning agents, local and national authorities, funding bodies and local and international audiences, creating a complex, ever-evolving web of meaning and responsibility. Sculpture is as likely to be found outside the gallery as in it, whether in sculpture parks, biennials, as temporary public projects or as commissioned permanent works or monuments. In these often-institutionalised and formalised ‘public’ contexts, how might sculpture still be understood as radical, contrary or disruptive?

This conference will take the Folkestone Triennial as its case study, while looking back at significant historical precedents, such as Sculpture Projects Münster, Chambres d’Amis and Culture in Action. In these contexts, this conference will seek to argue that sculpture is always political and space is never neutral.

Saturday 1st November

10.00 Registration
10.30 Welcome, with introduction by Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair of Arts Council England

PART 1: TERMS
Part 1 of the conference sets out to analyse key terms relating to ‘sculpture’, from the point of view of artists working today, but also from art-historical and pedagogic standpoints. Speakers will seek to address some of the following questions: What is sculpture today? How does it rub up against other disciplines? What is its expanded field? How do we deal with the histories of sculpture, particularly in relation to display, context and archiving? What is the relation of the studio to public display? What does it mean to teach sculpture? What does it mean to define oneself as a sculptor?

10.45 Keynote: Penelope Curtis, Director, Tate Britain
11.30 Tea and coffee break
12.00 Panel discussion with:  
**Jordan Baseman**, artist and Head of Sculpture, Royal College of Art; **Anna Moszynska**, art historian and author, *Sculpture Now*; **Emma Hart**, artist; **Jon Wood**, Research Curator, Henry Moore Institute, and co-editor, *Modern Sculpture Reader*  
Chair: **Terry Perk**, Course Leader MA Fine Art & MA Curatorial Practice, UCA

13.30 Free time for lunch and chance to visit Folkestone Triennial artworks. A number of free guided tours will be leaving from the visitor centre throughout the afternoon. Sign up on the day.

**Evening Event, Quarterhouse bar:**  

**Sunday 2nd November**

10.00 Registration  
10.30 Welcome

**PART 2: FRAMEWORKS**  
Part 2 of the conference considers the frameworks within which sculpture is contextualised today, with particular emphasis on its role in the public realm. In an age in which art has been tied in – instrumentalised, even – with regeneration and other socio-economic agendas, what then are its responsibilities? Who provides the context, and how does it evolve over time? Who benefits in what ways from such framing and contextualising?

Following from this, how might we compare different contexts geographically, historically, socially and politically? What happens when there is no public realm, when land belongs entirely in the private domain?

10.45 Keynote: **Mary Jane Jacob**, Executive Director of Exhibitions and Exhibitions Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Independent Curator

11.30 Tea and coffee break

12.00 Panel discussion with:  
**Claire Doherty**, Director, Situations; **Amina Menia**, artist; **Shelley Sacks**, Social Sculpture Practitioner / Interdisciplinary Artist and Professor of Social Sculpture and Interdisciplinary Arts, Oxford Brookes University  
Chair: **Dominic Rahtz**, Senior Lecturer History and Theory of Art, UCA

13.30 Free time for lunch and chance to visit Folkestone Triennial artworks.
PART 3: ENCOUNTERS
In the final part of the conference, we look at the experience of sculpture. How does the public confront works in the public realm? And what is the value of signposting ‘art’, or allowing for unexpected encounters? How much contextual information should one offer to the viewer and how might sculpture be seen as a starting point, or a reference, for a multi-layered response by a viewer – one that takes into account the frameworks discussed above, as well as personal experience?

15.15 Keynote: Nicolas Bourriaud, Director of the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, and curator of the Taipei Biennial 2014

16.00 Panel discussion with:
Anouchka Grose, psychoanalyst; Sarah Staton, artist; Iain Sinclair, writer, filmmaker and psychogeographer; Anthony Heywood, Head of Sculpture, UCA
Chair: Gilda Williams, London correspondent for Artforum and lecturer, MFA Curating, Goldsmiths

17.30 Drinks reception at Quarterhouse bar: all welcome

Tickets
One day: £15, £10 concession
Both days: £20, £15 concession
Ticket prices include tea and coffee, and a glass of wine at the drinks reception

About UCA
One of Europe’s leading arts and design institutions, the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) builds on a proud tradition of creative arts education spanning more than 150 years. Our campuses at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham and Rochester are home to more than 7,000 students from over 70 countries studying on courses in art, design, architecture, media and communications.

About Interreg and ICR
UCA is the Lead Partner on the ICR (Interregional Culture-led Regeneration) project, working in partnership with eight other UK and French organisations. ICR is a project selected under the European Cross-border Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVA France (Channel) – England, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

ICR aims to stimulate the growth of the creative and cultural industries in the South and East England Coastal region and Pas-de-Calais, Normandy and Brittany region through a range of creative and collaborative cross-border initiatives.

Websites for further information:
www.interreg4a-manche.eu
www.ucreative.ac.uk
www.thesculpturequestion.com
www.folkestonetriennial.org.uk
How to find Quarterhouse

By Train

High-speed trains run regularly from London St Pancras International (journey time 57 minutes). The last return train from Folkestone to London is at 22:56. Folkestone Central Station is a short walk from the centre of town and approximately 15 minutes walk from Quarterhouse. National Railway Enquiries – 08457 484 950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Car

From the M20, turn off at junction 13 and follow signs to the Harbour. (SAT NAV USERS – CT20 1BN)

Parking

The nearest car parks are Tram Road (2 mins), Payers Park (2 mins) and the Harbour car park (5 mins). All council car parks charge daily fees starting from £1.20 per hour. During weekends there is limited parking available behind Quarterhouse which requires a parking permit that can be obtained from Quarterhouse for £3 per day. For more information please call Quarterhouse Box Office on 01303 760 750.

By Bus or Coach

A direct National Express coach service runs from London Victoria Coach Station to the main bus station in Bouverie Square, Folkestone. Stagecoach operates a network of routes linking local towns and villages to Folkestone.

Taxis

JJ’s Taxis: 01303 244 442
Premier Cars: 01303 270 000

For a variety of accommodation options please visit the Folkestone Triennial website.