

The Visual Archive: History, Evidence and Make Believe

7 Friday afternoons 15 October - 26 November 2004

15.00 -18.00

East Room, Tate Modern Level 7

A collaboration between the Research Centre for Photography and the Archive, London College of Communication (formerly LCP) University of the Arts (London) and Tate Modern.

Exploring the mysterious, provoking and ambiguous world of the archive, this series of seminars will bring together artists, writers, historians, archivists and others to discuss the meaning, breadth and consequences of visual repositories. From the municipal archive to the invented history, the series will consider ways in which the nature of truth and evidence are constantly contested and revised. Individual seminars will be focused around various collections, hoards, imaginary archives, artists' archives and family archives, as well as films and writings which explore different aspects of the archive. These are research-level seminars, aimed at photographers, archivists, historians and curators.

15th October 2004

Collecting Culture

Val Williams: Introduction

Val is a writer and curator. Her past projects include 'Warworks' at the V&A, 'The Dead' at the NMPT&TV and 'Martin Parr: Photographs' at the Barbican Art Gallery. Her book on the street and club portraits of Derek Ridgers will be published in November 2004. She is Director of the Photography and the Archive Research Centre and has organised these seminars.

Roger Hargreaves

Roger Hargreaves is Photography Programme Manager at the National Portrait Gallery. He has curated exhibitions which include The Beautiful and the Damned, whose accompanying book was winner of the 2002 Kraszna-Krauss Award. He has lectured widely on photography and is a regular contributor to Photoworks magazine. He is currently writing and editing two books: Photography and Trafalgar Square and To Have and to Hold: The Wedding Portrait Photograph, as well as researching a forthcoming exhibition on Fleet Street press photography. In his talk 'Do you see what I see?' Roger will consider the impulse to collect; contrasting the agendas of the public collection with the practices of the private collector, considering how both seek to foreground the idea of curator as author.

Jon Newman

Jon Newman is the Archives and Library manager for the London Borough of Lambeth, a post that he works as a job-share and that enables him to work as a consultant archivist and freelance researcher for other bodies. He has worked in this capacity for Whitechapel Art Gallery, the Museum of Garden History, Prices Patent Candle Company, Lincoln College, Oxford and many other organisations. He has a particular interest in the issues around proactive and reactive collecting of visual archives and in the disorientation that occurs when images become uncoupled from their original provenance.

Stephen Bull

Stephen Bull is an artist, writer, curator and lecturer. His work has appeared at The Photographers' Gallery, London and was included in The Artist and The Archive as part of The Shoreditch Biennale. Stephen will show and discuss his work which uses found photographs from a variety of archives and collections;

including pictures made by the staff photographers at Madame Tussaud's and the albums of a celebrity obsessed usherette.

22nd October
Archive Voices

Graeme Miller

Graeme Miller is an artist and composer. His recent work, LINKED is part of a body of work which deals with and intervenes directly in the connections of memory to place. He will look at this work which places 20 radio transmitters, broadcasting accounts of 400 buildings demolished along the M11 motorway in east London. LINKED was made in conjunction with the Museum of London in whose collection the original unprocessed recordings reside. The significant differences between the Museum archive and the constant broadcast of fragmented voices *in situ* raise questions about intention, placement and function of what we could consider “artificial memories” and the overall ecology and economy of memory in which the work takes place.

Charlotte Cotton

Charlotte is Head of Programming at The Photographers' Gallery. Previously, she was Curator of Photographs at the V&A. Her book, 'Photography as Contemporary Art', will be published as part of the World of Art series by Thames & Hudson on 1 November. She will be talking about how working for the Oral History of British Photography archive shaped her exhibition and book 'Imperfect Beauty: The Making of Contemporary Fashion Photographs.'

Alan Dein

Alan Dein is currently working on King's Cross Voices, an Oral History of London's King's Cross. He is a freelance BBC Radio presenter, and has often explored stories of the past hidden deep within the pages of Picture Post magazine.

29th October 2004
Archives of Memory

Rachel Lichtenstein

Rachel Lichtenstein is an artist, writer and oral historian. In this talk she will discuss her use of archives and artefacts as the catalyst for creative projects. Focusing in particular on the book she wrote in collaboration with Iain Sinclair, 'Rodinsky's Room,' which traces the life of an orthodox Jewish scholar who disappeared from the attic room of a synagogue in the East End of London. As well as her most recent project, Add.17469, consisting of a publication and installation based on her recent fellowship at the British Library.

Peter Cattrell

Peter is a photographer and associate lecturer at the London Institute, teaching at Camberwell and Central St Martins. He will be discussing the 'Terrain' project which studies the landscape of the WW1 Western Front and the British front line of the Battle of the Somme. 'Terrain' explores family memory and the universal experience of loss. It was recently exhibited at the Imperial War Museum.

Pam Skelton

Pam is an artist and Senior Lecturer at Central St Martins. She will be speaking on her projects which explore cultural and personal memory in post WW2 dictatorships. She is currently working on two projects which explore the interaction between personal and political spaces in the now reunified Europe. 'The Third Archive - Atke KW' – is a cross-disciplinary project that draws on a file in the Stasis Archives to visualise over 500 conspiracy meeting places in a medium sized city in the former German Democratic Republic The other project is an intervention at the Anna Akhmatova Museum in St Petersburg, Russia, that respond to moments in the life of the censored poet Anna Akhmatova during the Stalinist purges.

Tim Thompson

Tim is a Lecturer in Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee and will be speaking about the manifestations of 'Archive' in Forensic Anthropology.

5th November 2004

Accumulating Archives

Stella Mitchell

Stella has been collecting for thirty three years and has her own museum, 'The Land of Lost Content, The National Museum of British Popular Culture' which she will be discussing.

Neil Cummings

'Documents and Enthusiasts'. Documents was a yearlong research project and exhibition at the Design Council Archive; the archive stores the largest collection of photographs of domestic objects in the world. And Enthusiasts a two year project locating the remains of films, made by amateur film clubs attached to factories in pre-1989 Poland. The project is evolving into a 'critical' archive, founded on the Creative Commons Licence, which will enable the films to become the source of future creative, and educational works. Further information is available on his website: <http://www.chanceprojects.com>

Adrian Amos

Adrian was born in 1948 and has spent his life so far on the fringes of commerce. He is the founder of LASSCO, The London Architectural Salvage & Supply Co. The firm was established in 1978 at the redundant Church of St. Michael's in Shoreditch and continues to operate from that location and other rundown premises in Central London. He will talk about how life can be blighted by large and rather useless objects and a preoccupation with the past.

Nicky Gregson

Nicky is the author (with Louise Crewe) of **Second-hand Cultures**, published in 2004, which investigates consumerism in the second hand sector encompassing charity shops, car boot sales and retro. Following the life stories of goods as they travel into and through second-hand sites, the research explores the work of traders as well as consumer's investments in second-hand merchandise- including gifting and collecting as well as rituals of personalization and possession.

12th November 2004

Photography, Fashion and the Archive

Mark Lebon

Mark Lebon, a senior tutor at L.C.F, University of the arts London for two years, is a fashion photographer, though he doesn't like to admit it. Recognised as a film director/producer, artist and

all round fashionista, he also likes to see himself as a family man and human being. Known for his work with the highly influential Buffalo team in the late eighties, Lebon has built a cult following for his often irreverent and provocative take on image making in the fashion, music and broadcast industries. His client list includes, Vogue, i-D and Arena. Comme des Garcon, Vivienne Westwood, Harvey Nichols B.B.C. Channel Four and Nokia.

Alistair O Neill

Alistair is a Research Fellow at London College of Fashion and he will talk about the relation between the archive, fashion and photography.

Lawrence Hole

Lawrence is the Director of the Madame Yevonde Portrait Archive. He will talk about managing and conserving a large and complex historical archive.

Derek Ridgers

'An Accidental Archive'. Derek Ridgers is a photographer living and working in London. Since 1978 he has been photographing street and club culture in London. The first monograph of his work *When We Were Young: Street and Club Portraits 1978-1988* will be published in November 2004.

19th November 2004

Artists and the Archive

Alison Marchant

Alison is an installation artists living and working in London. She will present fragments from three projects. 'Living Room', an artists bookwork constructed from conversations experienced across an East London housing estate, 'East Londoners', a series of 300 billboards across Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets emerging from a year long collecting process of family photographs and conversations with local residents, and 'Relicta', an installation composed from re-photographed Victorian photographs and diaries researched at the Wren Library and currently being translated into an opera collaboration with composer Michael Nyman.

Joachim Schmid

Joachim is an artist living in Berlin. He has worked with found photography for many years and will be speaking about photo series produced over the last ten years.

Gordon MacDonald

Gordon is a photographer living and working in Brighton. He is editor of Photoworks magazine and a curator at Photoworks. He will talk about the use of archival images in his personal practice and in his curation.

Roma Tearne

Roma Tearne is a Sri Lankan-born artist living and working in Britain. Having completed her MA at the Ruskin School of drawing and Fine Art she worked as the Leverhulme Artist in Residence at the Ashmolean Museum. In February 2005 she will be Artist in Residence at Modern Art Oxford. For the past five years she has been interested in excavating the 'secret' and fragile histories found in objects, public spaces, and photographic archives.

26th November 2004

Conclusions: Writings, Photographs, Archives

Janice Hart

Janice is Director of Research at the London College of Communication. She is the co-editor, with Elizabeth Edwards of **Photographs, Objects, Histories**, 2004. She will be talking about her work on Penelope's Lively's **The Photograph**.

Elizabeth Edwards

Elizabeth is a Research Fellow at LCC, the head of the Photograph and Manuscript Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford and a Lecturer in Visual Anthropology at the University of Oxford. She will be talking about 'the archive beyond the visual'

Stuart Brisley/ Tim Brennan

In 1976 Stuart Brisley was invited to take up the post of Artist in Residence of Peterlee New Town, and he began work on one of the first contemporary artworks that relied on participation with the general public. Now in collaboration with artist Tim Brennan and the University of Sunderland, he is completing the Peterlee Archive Project - 28 years after he began.

David Chandler: Conclusion

David is the Director of Photoworks UK and Senior Visiting Lecturer at LCC.