

## **Performing the Archive – Programme details**

### **Event One:**

**Title:** Investigating Archives

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006

**Venue:** Linen Hall Library, Belfast

### **Participants:**

Hugh Maguire (Museums and Archives Officer, The Heritage Council, Ireland)

John Gray (Librarian, Linen Hall Library, Belfast)

Nick Stewart (artist, London)

Judit Bodor (Curator and former Researcher at Artpool, Budapest)

Julie Bacon (Researcher Interface and artist, Belfast)

Pat Cooke (Director, MA in Cultural Arts Policy, UCD, Dublin)

Walid Raad (The Atlas Group, Beirut/New York)

### **Description:**

*Investigating Archives*, the first event in the series, opened up the exploration of cultural archives. Traditional archiving perspectives were placed in tension to emergent approaches by artists/cultural activists who are proactive in documenting their work, and those who are opposed to the concept of archiving and/or have thought of alternative approaches to preserve memories, construct narratives, and facilitate value-shaping (trans/inter)actions. It also considered to what extent archivists/the structure of the archive interprets and changes the meaning and intention of the material.

### **Event Two:**

**Title:** Interacting with the Archive: creative approaches

**Date:** 22 March 2007

**Venue:** The National Glass Centre, Sunderland

### **Participants:**

Stuart Brisley (Peterlee Project)

Sophie Spencer-Wood (Picture Editor who worked for Phaidon on the books *Century* and *the Family*)

Val Williams (writer, curator & Director of PARC)

Marjolaine Ryley (artist/photographer working with issues around personal archives and collections)

Stuart Howard (historian working with the NEMARC mining archive)

**Description:**

This event investigated interaction with archives across a range of disciplines (including art, photography, history and curating). It explored how personal and private collections become archives through their placement within wider social, political and historical contexts, and it considered a range of creative approaches to working with archival materials. The day focused on the interaction of research-based practices and the Archive, considering different types of archive and modes of creative engagement with them, and attempted to uncover the processes of formulating an archive, examining questions around what is an archive and how archives come about.

**Event Three:**

**Title:** Per-Forming The Archive

**Date:** 28 March 2007

**Venue:** The Culture Lab, Newcastle

**Participants:**

Stephen Foster (Director, John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton)

Anne Bean (Installation and performance artist)

Victoria Worsley (Archivist, Henry Moore Institute Archive)

Stephen Partridge (Media artist, producer and curator)

Sue Breakell (Head of the Archive section within Tate's Library and Archive)

**Description:**

*Per-Forming the Archive* centered on current innovative strategies of curating/activating cultural archives, and considered ways of enhancing the current and future potential for creative engagement with archival resources. The event looked at individual strategies, organisational strategies and new technological strategies for databasing and preserving archival material including the conservation of digital and analogue media.

**Event Four:**

**Title:** Facilitating The Archive

**Date:** 27 April 2007

**Venue:** Interface, University of Ulster, Belfast

**Participants:**

Professor Kerstin Mey (Chair in Fine Art, Interface)

Una Walker (artist, Belfast)

Dr Gerry Slater (Director, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast)

Dr Marta Bustillo (Visual Resources Librarian, NCAD, Dublin)

Anthony Haughey (artist and Senior Research Fellow, Interface)

David Monahan (Photographer, Ireland)

Sarah Pierce (artist and Research Associate, Interface)

**Description:**

*Facilitating The Archive* explored the practical issues of managing databases/archives, particularly in relation to digitisation, access and narrative pathways through the information source. The training looked at issues of archiving artifacts/ performances (physical tapes, photographs, documentation), and explored how these are and can be made available digitally (digitisation programmes, web publishing, on-line catalogues and the relationship between the digital version and the 'original' and its implication for the documentation processes of creative practice).

**Event Five:**

**Title:** Consensus Contention

**Date:** 22/23 June 2007

**Venue:**

Interface, University of Ulster, Belfast

Catalyst Arts, Belfast

Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast

**Participants:**

Professor Kerstin Mey (Chair in Fine Art, Interface)

Julie Bacon (Researcher Interface and artist, Belfast)

Victoria Worsely (Archivist Henry Moore Foundation Leeds)

John Gray (Librarian Linen Hall Library, Belfast)

Anthony Haughey (Artist, Research Fellow Interface, and coordinator of the Borderlines project)

Chris Dorsett (Artist and curator of art projects that interact with the collections and spaces of non-art museums)

Peter Haining (artist and curator, Dundee)

Megs Morley (curator, and Irish Artist Led Archive)

Justin McKeown (artist, and Irish Artist Led Archive)

Roland Miller (Artist, Sheffield)

Stewart Home (writer, London)

Dr Gerry Slater (Director of Public Record Office of Northern Ireland)

Chris Coppock (Director Ffotogallery, Cardiff)

Artist-led groups from around Northern Ireland.

**Description:**

*Consensus Contention* was the final in the series of five events on archives and art (Performing the Archive). It synthesised and moved on from the preceding events, taking the consideration of artistic interest in archives into discussion of the broader cultural significance of archiving, in its political, poetic and economic aspects.... A discussion and art event that will explore how archiving operates in culture. From surveillance to home-videos to art documentation to data-mining to landfill.