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## Edinburgh Research Explorer

### Dialog – Skulpturale Positionen

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**Gordon Munro**

## **The IRONFIELD project**

### **Introduction**



Iron pour at Edinburgh College of Art during University of Edinburgh Innovative Learning Week 2012.

The Ironfield project aims to explore by diverse means the ongoing expressive philosophical and contextual potential of iron. It also maps, contextualises and disseminates this information. Interwoven within this project is a continuing series of artworks, teaching projects and exhibitions.

### **Research led teaching**

During Innovative Learning Week Ewan Robertson and I ran the first ever iron casting course at Edinburgh College of Art, (eca). This was jointly delivered with assistance from eca and Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop technical staff. This course initially outlined the presence of iron in the world and in our lives through talks, discussion and a film screening. We examined the use of iron in industry and contemporary art practice. The students then went on to prepare their own sand moulds and to pour iron in eca's foundry.

During our introductory talk we were able to discuss our own collaborative work Cloud Dialogue. This work is a series of cast iron objects existing as nodes in an interchangeable physically interconnected molecular-type 'cloud'. These elements are joined through a connecting spigot system that fixes the cast forms to lengths of hollow square section steel. This varies according to each exhibiting context and the selected component parts. Ewan Robertson and I have used Cloud Dialogue as a vehicle to explore the nature of iron. The conversation continues between us to determine our choice of objects and areas of investigation. The cast elements represent iron's place in our world ranging from the iron in our bodies to forms inspired by magnetite, the material used by many animals to navigate.



Resin bonded sand mould preparation with Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop casting technician Kate Ive during University of Edinburgh Innovative Learning Week 2012.



## Material Rites

Royal British Society of Sculptors, London, 2011

Inspace, University of Edinburgh, 2011



Cloud Dialogue, Material Rites, Inspace, University of Edinburgh, 2011

Material Rites was shown at the Royal British Society of Sculptors, (RBS), London and Inspace, University of Edinburgh during 2011. These exhibitions were excellent opportunities for the Ironfield project, in particular the sculpture Cloud Dialogue to make an impact on a broad range of audiences. The exhibition, curated by Sandy Wood, examined materiality and the artists involved were selected because of the diverse ways in which they use different materials.

All audiences linked to the RBS were able to access the exhibition in London and Inspace was particularly valuable in terms of student access to the work and peer review.

The debate surrounding materiality was further developed with many positive contributions from the participating artists, not least Professor Simon Kirby of the University of Edinburgh who spoke in his role as a member of the artists' group FOUND. Curator Sandy Wood gave a talk during the exhibition and a catalogue supported the show.



Cloud Dialogue (detail), RBS Gallery, London 2011

Artists included in the exhibition are as follows:

Gordon Munro, Ewan Robertson, Bill Scott (Professor Emeritus), Derek Sutherland, The artists' collective FOUND (winners of the Scottish Bafta interactive category), Lyndsay Mann (currently undertaking a practice led Phd at eca), David McAllister (Alt- w award winner), Scott Laverie and Gemma Coyle.

## Dialog Skulpturale Positionen

Haus Hohenbusch, Erkelenz, Germany, 2011



Cloud Dialogue, Gordon Munro and Ewan Robertson, 2011

The exhibition in Erkelenz, Germany, Dialog Skulpturale Positionen curated by Regina van den Berg gave our work Cloud Dialogue an international platform.

This exhibition included iron artworks made by both artists as well as works by Stuart Bennett and Bill Scott. It was supported by a catalogue and related artists' talks enabling a wide audience to engage with the work and with the project in a broader sense.





The Genealogist, Gordon Munro, 2010



The History of Chromates, Ewan Robertson, 2011