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## **Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy**

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## Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy

### Symposium at Site Gallery

9 September 11am – 8.30pm



Oaks Water Tower 1961  
Sheffield Water Corporation



Castle Market 1960-65  
J.L. Womersley  
(project Architect Andrew Darbyshire)



Moore Street Substation 1965-8  
Brian Jefferson; Jefferson, Sheard & Partners



Psalter Lane Art College 1970  
Bradshaw, Rowse & Harker



Holy Cross Church 1964-5  
Braddock & Martin Smith



Park Hill Flats 1957-61  
Jack Lynn and Ivor Smith

Walks, Symposium and Book Launch  
Tickets £20/£10 (concessions)

*Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy* is a publication and a symposium centered around six of Sheffield's Brutalist buildings: Park Hill Flats, Castle Market, Moore Street Substation, Holy Cross Church–Gleadless Valley, Oaks Water Tower–Norton and the recently demolished Psalter Lane Art school. The day starts with guided walks to some of the city centre buildings, followed by the book launch, symposium, and an optional meal in the evening. The day will explore the visual proposals and texts presented in the accompanying publication *Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy* that explores the place that six of Sheffield's Brutalist buildings hold in the city today. These extraordinary buildings are sometimes forgotten, often reviled, loved, misunderstood, and contested, but form a vital part of Sheffield's architectural heritage.

Twenty Five artists and writers from London, Sheffield and Berlin have been invited to contribute to the publication *Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy*, each artist contributed a visualisation or speculative text addressing the position that these buildings hold now; part of a much loved landscape or irrelevant, robbed of their utopian ideals. Three notable writers on the urban landscape and architecture, Owen Hatherley, Professor Steve Pile and Professor Jane Rendell give a historical and social context and speculations of their own.

The project was conceived of by artist and lecturer Julie Westerman, includes the following artists:

#### **Artists**

From Berlin: Christl Mudrak, Dominique Hurth, Olivia Reynolds with Jon Moscow, Ines Lechleitner, Irene Pätzug, Oliver Zwink, Valentin Hertweck, Peter Klare, Stephan Hüsich,

From Sheffield: Michelle Atherton, Chloë Brown, Matthew Harrison, Jaspar Joseph-Lester, Sharon Kivland, T C McCormack, Penny McCarthy, Becky Shaw, Gary Simmonds, Hester Reeve, Andrew Sneddon, Julie Westerman.

#### **Writers & Speakers**

##### Owen Hatherley

(Guardian journalist, Author of 'A Guide to the New Ruins of Great Britain' & 'Uncommon' a book on Pulp)

##### Professor Steve Pile

Professor of Human Geography, the Open University and author of 'Real Cities: modernity, space and the phantasmagorias of city life'.

##### Professor Jane Rendell

Director of Architectural Research at the Bartlett, UCL, architectural designer and historian, art critic and writer.

#### **Schedule for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.30** Registration

**11am – 12.30.** Guided walks to Park hill Flats and some of the city centre buildings

**12.30 – 2.00** Book launch – *Brutalist Speculations and Flights of Fancy*

**2pm – 6.00.** Symposium – Three consecutive panels led by Professor Steve Pile,

Professor Jane Rendell, and Owen Hatherley

2.00 **Professor Steve Pile**, with Sharon Kivland, Michelle Atherton, Hester Reeve

3.00 **Professor Jane Rendell** with Jaspar Joseph-Lester, Andrew Sneddon, Chloë Brown

4.00 **Owen Hatherley** with T.C McCormack, Penny McCarthy, Gary Simmonds

5.00 Plenary session

**6.30pm – 8.30.** Optional dinner to continue the days discussion.

**Tickets** £20 *Full price Students / concessions* £10

**Optional dinner** £25 per head, to be reserved at time of booking

#### **Booking**

Places are limited so booking essential. Please purchase tickets via [www.brutalistspeculations.eventbrite.com](http://www.brutalistspeculations.eventbrite.com), or alternatively call into Site Gallery. For further information contact Site Gallery on 0114 281 2077