Past Exhibitions

re : public
19 January - 13 March 2010

re : public is an exhibition and series of events through which the crucial question will be asked – can something happen in public again?

In collaboration with GradCAM, the Graduate School of Creative Arts & Media in Dublin, and guest curator Daniel Jewesbury, the gallery at TBG&S will become a forum where the public meet with artists and thinkers to reconsider the troubled relationship between art and society. The project asks whether there is even anything left that we can really call ‘public’. After the fiasco of the property crash, we examine the role played by architecture and urban planning in the construction of physical public space. And in a world controlled by globalised markets, loyal to no nation, we ask if we can still talk of meaningful democratic participation by ‘the public’ in the institutions that shape our lives?

Even if we can, is there any room, or any need, for the contributions of artists?

Between 19 and 26 January, artist Robert Anderson and architect Mark Hackett will build a structure that fills the gallery, both a frame and a stage for the events that come after. On Friday 27 January, the gallery will be open from 1pm – 8pm to allow members of the public to view this first phase. Artist
Dan Shipsides will then ‘intervene’ in this structure for one week, modifying and subverting its design so that it is not just a neutral setting, but an active element in the ensuing discussions.

From 4 February - 6 March, artists, writers and activists will host provocations, from screenings and talks to workshops and performances, in the gallery and around the city, all open to public participation. Contributors include Croatian artist Igor Grubić (featured in this year’s Istanbul Biennale); writer Owen Hatherley (author of the acclaimed book ‘Militant Modernism’); influential public sphere theorist Simon Sheikh; and artists Mark Orange, Seamus Nolan, Amanda Ralph, Sandra Johnston and Aisling O’Beirn. Additionally, artists and researchers at GradCAM, NCAD, DIT, UCD and the University of Ulster will occupy the space and open it out to the public through a range of activations and engagements.

Finally, from 9 - 12 of March, artist Peter Liversidge will ‘decommission’ the structure and the materials that have accumulated over the course of the events, returning the gallery to an empty space before a special closing event on 13 March with speakers including academic and writer Nina Power (author in 2009 of ‘One-Dimensional Woman’).

Updates on the project, including a full list of participants and a detailed calendar of events, will be available at www.gradcam.ie/re_public.php.

Between 4 February and 5 March, Temple Bar Gallery will be open from 1pm to 8pm, enabling participation from as broad an audience as possible in this challenging and innovative project.

Further Information

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