

DRAWING ROOM

Drawing Research Forum – 2021/2022 Sessions

Friday 5th November 2021

This afternoon of presentations and discussions, selected from an open call, provides access to recent research examining critical issues around contemporary drawing. The session will feature presentations and a plenary discussion with artists examining diverse themes, and utilising and developing current discourse around contemporary drawing. The Drawing Research Forum provides a space for knowledge exchange between disciplines, encourages cross-fertilization of ideas and methodology, and fosters collaborations between artists and researchers.

SCHEDULE

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| 2 – 2.20 pm | Charles R Harrison - <i>Drawing as Assessment: Developing Methods for Talking Through the Line</i> |
| 2.20 – 2.40 pm | Lika Tarkhan-Mouravi - <i>Drawing as a method: Beyond Linguistic Translations of Marginalised Texts</i> |
| 2.40 – 3.00 pm | Alison Carlier - <i>Drawing: A Task Analysis</i> |
| 3.00-3.20 pm | Orly Orbach - <i>Drawing Children's Heritage in Migration - Albanian Supplementary School Plays at the Museum of London</i> |
| 3.20-3.40 pm | Chaired plenary discussion |

ABSTRACTS

Charles R Harrison - *Drawing as Assessment: Developing Methods for Talking Through the Line*

Drawing methods are commonly used by neuropsychologists and clinicians in the assessment of neurodegenerative disease, and there are curious commonalities

between these approaches and some drawing methods used by conceptual artists. This presentation will outline examples of these commonalities and introduce ongoing interdisciplinary research which has been exploring the line in a series of creative and experimental environments, to uncover new possibilities for line drawing to help learn more about the perceptual, language-based, and behavioural challenges for people with rare dementias. The research raises several questions about using and interpreting drawing in this way and audience discussion will be welcomed.

Lika Tarkhan-Mouravi - *Drawing as a method: Beyond Linguistic Translations of Marginalised Texts*

The presentation will offer an overview of Tarkhan-Mouravi's research, exploring alternative ways to translate marginalised texts from minor languages and cultures. Approaching translation from a marginal perspective, Tarkhan-Mouravi will focus on drawing as a method that visualises what it means to work in a language that isn't one's own. She will discuss some of her drawings and explore the role of mistakes in her practice, as well as outlining the fugitive power of not knowing.

Alison Carlier - *Drawing: A Task Analysis*

Carlier's project aims to unpick drawing as a task; to examine the processing that takes place during the process of drawing. The presentation will explore the notion that drawing relies upon unseen activity, or processing within, before talking through a step-by-step task analysis of drawing (borrowed from Occupational Therapy) to understand this processing and its potentiality. It will ask:

- are there cognitive, behavioural and sensorial components peculiar to drawing?
- is there scope to lift these components, unique to drawing, and apply them elsewhere, as a mobile and fluid, transdisciplinary approach?

Orly Orbach - *Drawing Children's Heritage in Migration - Albanian Supplementary School Plays at the Museum of London*

Orbach's paper explores the potentialities of drawing in anthropological and ethnographic research, as means of mediating between cultural worlds, as a form of placemaking in the field, and as an epistemological tool, particularly when researching and communicating with children. The paper is based on Orbach's PhD research about heritage reconstruction in migration, and children's changing roles as heritage guardians and cultural representatives of their communities in diaspora. The drawings in the paper are of children's performances and plays from the Shpresa Programme that brought Albanian heritage to the Museum of London through a supplementary school partnership.

BIOGRAPHIES

Charles Harrison graduated with a BA in Drawing & Painting from University of Northampton in 2007. He has exhibited with Jupiter Woods, London; Lifespace, Dundee; Science Gallery, Dublin; and recently completed residencies with Wellcome Collection and Barbican Centre, London. His artistic methods and conceptual understanding have been shaped through collaboration and interdisciplinary research alongside artists, curators, social scientists, neuropsychologists, motor-neuroscientists and members of rare dementia support groups. These collaborations have particularly focussed on the historical development, value and deficiencies of standardised testing methods and have led to novel social science and arts and health research funded by Wellcome Trust, University College London and the Economic and Social Research Council.

Lika Tarkhan-Mouravi is an artist, independent curator and researcher based in London/Tbilisi. Tarkhan-Mouravi's practice focuses on intersections between visual arts and text. Tarkhan-Mouravi is undertaking a LAHP funded PhD at the Royal College of Art, where she explores beyond the limits of linguistic translation. Tarkhan-Mouravi is a recipient of the Open Space Contemporary Curatorial residency and holds an MA from Curating Contemporary Art (RCA).

Alison Carlier's practice centres around the subtleties of language. She uses drawing, audio, text and working with others to find ways to explore the potential for change. Graduating in Occupational Therapy (1993) and MA Drawing (2013), she went on to win the Jerwood Drawing Prize in 2014 with a sound work. Previous nominations include the Max Mara Art Prize for Women and the Drawing Room Bursary Award. She lives and works in Southeast England.

Orly Orbach is an artist and anthropology PhD candidate at Goldsmiths University, creating participatory narrative environments with museums, schools, libraries and galleries since graduating from the Royal College in 2003 in Communication Art and Design. Orbach has worked at the interface of museums and minority communities for many years, coming to know diverse heritage communities across the UK. After working as an artist with the British Museum's supplementary schools programme, Orbach retrained in anthropology, and is currently in the final stages of completing a PhD thesis about diasporic heritage, migration and collaborative museum representations, researching the Museum of London's supplementary schools 2018-2020. Current research explores the relationship between visibility, diversity and temporality, examining how supplementary school plays reconstruct heritage in migration.