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BRITISH ART NETWORK

Newsletter | September 2019



Dear British Art Network members,

Earlier this year, Tate and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art announced that they would be working together to expand the British Art Network and develop its full potential. Building on the success of the network to date, this exciting new partnership – along with continued support from Arts Council England's Subject Specialist Network Fund – has enabled us to plan an ambitious programme of seminars, workshops and conferences, and to expand our support for research sub-groups and early career curators.

In this inaugural newsletter for the jointly-led network, we are delighted to announce a number of the events and activities that will form part of the programme to June 2020. We look forward to sharing further plans with you throughout the year.

With very best wishes,

Alex Farquharson, Director, Tate Britain and Mark Hallett, Director of Studies, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art



RESEARCH AND THE MUSEUM ECOSYSTEM

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for proposals: 1 November 2019

The British Art Network invites proposals for contributions to a day-long conference entitled 'Research and the Museum Ecosystem' to be hosted in Cardiff by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales on 19 March 2020. Submissions are welcome from curators, academics, artists, independent scholars, museum and heritage sector professionals and beyond.

This conference, focusing upon arts-based research in the museum, gallery and academic worlds, is intended to provide a fresh opportunity to investigate how the concept of a museum ecosystem might offer an alternative to, or even an improvement upon, more traditional frameworks of curatorial practice.

The term ecosystem was coined by biologists in the 1930s to identify the ways in which living organisms interacted with their inert environment to form a dynamic and regenerative community. Since

then the term has also been used to describe human ecosystems, which offer opportunities to shape and encourage energy flows, and to cope creatively with transition – or even catastrophe. While the concept of human ecosystems has been explored in relation to the workings of academic and museum circles in recent years, discussion has gravitated towards science-based research rather than the arts and humanities.

This conference places the concept of the museum ecosystem – and its relation to curatorial research and activity – at centre stage. A ‘museum ecosystem’ can be understood in relation to a variety of evolving, responsive and sometimes regenerative forms of interaction: across and within the environments of individual museums and galleries; across and between a series of interconnected institutional spaces within a particular locality or region; or between such institutions and their wider environments.

We encourage discussion on all these topics, particularly those designed to open up new perspectives on how such ecosystems have shaped, and might in future shape, curatorial and scholarly research as they relate to collections, collections care and management.

Possible themes and topics to be explored in the conference are:

- The museum ecosystem as an entity: dynamism versus stability
- The impact of the ecosystem on curatorial and scholarly research culture
- How to shape a research-related museum ecosystem through the exchange of ideas, collaborations and partnerships
- Research in the museum ecosystem in the context of different management models in the university, the commercial sector and civic sphere
- The narrative and justification for research partnerships and collaboration
- Risk-taking and the issue of perceived success and failure
- Expenditure of finance and resource in the museum ecosystem in supporting research funding
- The issue of what constitutes ‘research’ and who might be recognised as a ‘researcher’ within the context of the ecosystem model

Contributions should take the form of 15-minute individual or joint presentations and should address subjects central to the conference’s stated theme of research relating to the museum ecosystem. The focus

of contributions may be art-historical, museological, artistic, theoretical, case-study based, or reflective but all will be expected to have an interrogative and critical dimension. The day is intended to facilitate creative dialogues across and between disciplines, individuals and institutions, so we would welcome especially contributions that create opportunities for such exchanges.

Proposals should take the form of a written statement of no more than 500 words, stating the research questions, the means by which these will be addressed, and the relevance of the proposer's research, practice and/or experience in addressing these questions. Short, one-paragraph biographies of speakers should also be included at the bottom of the proposal (this is in addition to the 500 words allotted for the proposal).

Please send Word or PDF documents to Jessica Jukes, Coordinator, British Art Network: jessica.jukes@tate.org.uk by 1 November 2019.



MUSEUM COLLECTIONS ON PRESCRIPTION

SAVE THE DATE

Museum collections on prescription - Political rhetoric, civic responsibility or engagement opportunity?
A Subject Specialist Networks Conference
4-5 June 2020, London

We are delighted to be collaborating with two other professional networks on this conference, [Understanding British Portraits](#) and [European Paintings pre-1900](#). Join us to explore a wider range of collections-focused art, health and wellbeing programmes from local, regional and national museums and galleries. The conference will facilitate learning about the research and evidence that underpins much of this work and discuss issues and challenges arising from it. We will be issuing a call for papers next month to hear about your case studies, experience and ideas around working with collections at the intersection between the museum sector's remit and other disciplines, and the developing interest in engaging with public health.



BRITISH ART NETWORK SUB-GROUPS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Eleven British Art Network sub-groups will be active over the coming year to June 2020. Please find full details including information on how to join sub-groups on the British Art Network page on Tate's website.

Visit BAN webpage

BRITISH LANDSCAPES

LANDSCAPE: STATE OF PLAY

15 October 2019
Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Our first meeting will be dedicated to new developments in the study and display of landscape art and what opportunities they might offer (regional) museums with collections of historic, modern and contemporary landscape, land and environmental art. We will be joined by Nathalie Levi from the Royal West of England Academy, who will speak about the RWA's previous and upcoming landscape shows. Jenny Gaschke will report on the exhibition *Nature's Nation: American Art and the Environment*.

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group and to register interest in the event, please email Jenny Gaschke.

jenny.gaschke@bristol.gov.uk

POST-WAR BRITISH ART IN REGIONAL COLLECTIONS

DEBATING THE STATUS OF POST-WAR BRITISH PAINTING

BRITISH DRAWINGS

CURATING WATERCOLOURS

1 November 2019
Windsor Castle

This first event for 2019-20 will provide an opportunity for curators and researchers to share knowledge of the richness of watercolour collections in the UK and to engage with colleagues' research in the field of watercolour. Discussion may include aspects of curating, research and display (exhibitions, research projects, digitisation and temporary displays) as well as watercolour materials, the historic exhibition of watercolour, watercolour societies, watercolour gifts, watercolour albums, and issues of conservation and presentation.

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group and to register interest in the event, please email Rosie Razzall.

rosie.razzall@rct.uk

QUEER BRITISH ART

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

7 November 2019
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

6 November 2019
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

The first meeting for this new sub-group will include guest speakers, group discussion and curators' tours of the John Moores Painting Prize and Jacqui Hallam exhibits. Afternoon refreshments will be served.

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group and to register interest in the event, please email Sophie Hatchwell.

s.hatchwell@bham.ac.uk

CONTEMPORARY ART IN
SCOTLAND

FRANKI RAFFLES STUDY DAY

7 November 2019
University of St Andrews

This study day will bring together recent research on the feminist documentary photographer Franki Raffles, who produced a significant body of material during the 1980s and 1990s addressing the experiences of women workers in Scotland and

This will be an informal day with speakers from the museum sector, artists and artist spaces, and scholars sharing their work to date with an emphasis on critically interrogating what we have done, what needs to be done and how the sub-group can support this activity. The day will end with a round table discussion to establish what the aims and purpose of this sub-group should be and gauge interest and demand for future events.

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group, and to register interest in the event, please email Charlotte Keenan McDonald.

queerbritishart@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

BRITISH GENRE AND NARRATIVE
PAINTING, 1750-1870

INAUGURAL MEETING

27 November 2019
Liverpool Hope University

Our first meeting will feature a keynote talk, an introduction to the collection at the Walker Art Gallery and talks from individual members. We will also discuss what members would like to see covered in future events.

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group and to

globally. It will explore Raffles' career and its wider connections with activism, documentary and photographic practice from the 1980s to the current moment, featuring presentations, discussions, and a viewing session of material from Raffles' archive in the University's Photographic Special Collections.

register interest in the event, please email Amelia Yeates.

yeatesa@hope.ac.uk

Spaces limited. To enquire about joining the sub-group and to register interest in the event, please email Catherine Spencer

ces24@st-andrews.ac.uk

MEMBER NEWS

British Literary & Artistic Copyright Association and CREATE lecture - 'Whistler, Faed and Painting Copyright in the Nineteenth Century' 8 October, Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow (part of CREATE Symposium, 8-10 October)

Speaker: Dr Elena Cooper, CREATE, University of Glasgow

Portrait of Lady Eden by Whistler (the subject of *Eden v Whistler*, Cour d'appel de Paris, 1897) will be brought out of store by the Hunterian Art Gallery especially for this talk. More information [here](#).

BRITISH ART
subject specialist
NETWORK

 PAUL MELLON CENTRE
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The British Art Network is led and supported by [Tate](#) and the [Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art](#), with funding provided by the National Lottery through [Arts Council England](#).

First image: Delegates at the British Art Network Seminar 'Queer British Art', 10 Apr. 2017 © Tate

Second image: Panel members at the British Art Network Seminar 'Queer British Art', 10 Apr. 2017 © Tate

Third image: Delegates at the Joint SSN Conference 'Why Exhibitions?', 21-22 Feb. 2018 © The National Gallery

Fourth image: Paul Sandby (1731-1809), *The north front of Windsor Castle from Isherwood's Brewery in Datchet Lane*, c. 1765. Pen and ink, watercolour and bodycolour. RCIN 914596. Her Majesty The Queen © Royal Collection Trust 2019

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