

Art Writing Now: The Hestercombe Assembly

Information

Wednesday 7 December: Hestercombe House, Near Taunton, Somerset, TA2 8LG
1.30 to 5.00 pm (Early arrival 12 noon/late departure 5.30 pm see agenda)

This launch event for the Art Writing Programme will explore the possibilities for art writing today. Authors, curators and editors will present new ways of writing, thinking and publishing on the visual arts. The focus for discussion will be on how texts can be produced, programmed and disseminated to create a knowledgeable enjoyment of contemporary art.

The Art Writing Programme is organised by The Art Writers Group and will take place in 2017 in Bristol, Cornwall and Plymouth. Events will include:

Four evening classes on Art Writing and a Critics Lecture Series in Jan/Feb/March at Arnolfini and a workshop for Art Organisations on writing at Plymouth Arts Centre in March. The programme will culminate with a seminar on Arts Editorial in June also at Arnolfini.

Please contact us via Facebook if you wish to join the Art Writers Group mailing list.

Hestercombe Gallery was established in 2014 and boasts seven reclaimed gallery spaces and a residency studio on the first floor of Hestercombe House. The House, also the home of the Hestercombe archive, is surrounded by Hestercombe Gardens, a unique site of garden heritage now known to span over 4 centuries. Artist Coplestone Warre Bampfylde's Georgian landscape garden, the Victorian terrace and shrubbery and the stunning Edwardian garden designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll have all been restored.

Hestercombe's aim is to create a Centre for Art and Landscape. The Centre will offer cultural and educational opportunity for generations to come. It will complement Hestercombe's internationally recognised period gardens and the contemporary art gallery's growing reputation. The aim is to create new flexible spaces that bring artists, designers, academics, students and visitors together to discover art and landscape from international through to regional perspectives. These inter-disciplinary facilities will include accommodation, studio spaces, workshops, an outdoor gallery space, a new 21st century garden, expanded archives and resource facilities as well as communal spaces for making, studying, eating and drinking.

Hestercombe is conveniently situated just 15 minutes from junction 25 of the M5 and only a few miles outside of Taunton town centre. The route is marked out with brown daisy signs from the motorway all the way to Cheddon Fitzpaine. Upon following the sign from Cheddon Fitzpaine, stay on the main road until you reach Hestercombe House and Gardens. Do not take a turn onto Hestercombe Road as this will take you to the farm and **not** to Hestercombe.

Use the postcode TA2 8LQ for Sat Nav. On arrival proceed to the Ticket Office and they will direct you to the House where the event is being held.

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Agenda

- (12 noon) (Optional early arrival time, delegates are invited to collect identifying badges and explore Hestercombe).
- 1.30-2.00 Registration and refreshments
An opportunity to meet delegates and participants.
- 2.00 Welcome and introductions
Josephine Lanyon and Peter Stiles will introduce the Art Writers Group and the 2017 Art Writers Programme as well as partners Tim Martin, Hestercombe and Gordon Dalton Visual Arts South West
- 2.35 Authorship: Chair Gordon Dalton
Patrick Langley: fiction writer and art critic
Lizzie Lloyd: Peter Doig's Figures in Red Boat: Published by (<http://responsetoarequest.com>)
Followed by a Group Writing Activity
- 3.10 Context: Chair Josephine Lanyon
Mary Paterson: It Moves: reflections on walking as a practice of writing
Due to be published in Creative Criticism by Routledge, London
Phil Owen: Tertulia: a salon event devoted to experimental new work with voice and language <https://tertuliablog.wordpress.com/>
Followed by a Group Discussion on Authorship and Context
- 3.45 Refreshments
- 4.05 Publication: Chair Peter Stiles
Tom Jeffreys: The Learned Pig: an online magazine with a focus on art, thinking, nature, writing.
Greg Neale: Resurgence & Ecologist offers perspectives on a range of topics covering ecology, social justice, philosophy, spirituality, sustainable development and the arts.

Followed by a Group Discussion on Publication
- 4.40 Conclusions and thanks
- 5.00 End
- (5 - 5.30) (Refreshments for those who would like to continue informally)

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Biographies

Gordon Dalton is Network Manager for Visual Arts South West. Recent roles include Festival Coordinator at Plymouth Art Weekender; Project Manager at Locws International and Learning & Interpretation Manager at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery & Museum. He was Visual Arts Coordinator for Cardiff shortlisted bid to be European Capital of Culture. He has written for exhibitions, galleries and websites including Contemporary, AN Magazine, Big Issue, Axis, Turning Point, Fruitmarket, Chapter, Furtherfield and Flash Art.

Tom Jeffreys has been appointed to the AWG Plymouth Residency and is a writer, editor and occasional curator with a particular interest in contemporary art that crosses over into the sciences or explores our relationship with the environment. His work has been published in, among others, Monocle, Apollo, Vice, The Independent, The Daily Telegraph, New Scientist, Cricinfo, and World of Interiors.

Josephine Lanyon is co-director of the Art Writers Group and a writer, curator and producer. Most recently she has curated Emotional Archaeology by Daphne Wright for Arnolfini and Tyntesfield, National Trust and the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin and edited a publication under the same title. She was previously Director of Picture This, Bristol where she worked with artists such as Marcus Coates and Ben Rivers.

Patrick Langley has been appointed to the AWG Cornwall Residency and is a fiction writer and art critic. His writing appears regularly in Frieze, Art Agenda, Art Review, the TLS, Rhizome, and other publications. He is a contributing editor at, and regular contributor to, The White Review.

Lizzie Lloyd has been appointed to the AWG Plymouth Residency, she is a writer, artist, translator and visiting tutor at University of the West of England and University of Bristol. She has published multiple exhibition catalogue essays and is a regular contributor to Art Monthly, Artnet and Frieze. In 2016 she was writer-in-resident at Arnolfini Gallery and is completing a doctoral thesis on art writing and subjectivity at University of Bristol.

Tim Martin is an Artist/Curator whose practice involves making and showing work through engagement and collaboration with others. He has curated exhibition programmes for over 15 years and in 2014 set up Hestercombe Gallery in Somerset with the aim of presenting national and international work in the reclaimed spaces of Hestercombe House, whilst also developing a residency programme.

Greg Neale is the editor of Resurgence & Ecologist which offers positive perspectives on a range of engaging topics covering ecology, social justice, philosophy, spirituality, sustainable development and the arts. Resurgence is based in North Devon and has been published bi-monthly continuously for over 50 years (<https://www.resurgence.org>)

Phil Owen is a writer and musician based in Bristol with a strong interest in song, speech and belonging. His work has been published by/presented at Arnolfini, Spike Island, Hauser and Wirth Somerset, Chapter, Oriol Myrddin, Kiosk/Vox Populi, A Forgotten Landscape, g39, Lygalleriet, and the Cube Microplex. He has collaborated with Luke Nickel, Daniela Cascella, Sam Playford-Greenwell, Caroline Wilkins, HO-ST and The Collect.

Mary Paterson has been appointed to the AWG Bristol Residency and is a writer, artist and producer who works between text, poetry and performance. Her work is widely published and ranges from articles in (for example) The Guardian to artists' books like the self-destructing A _ Impossible Reader (Norwich Art Centre, 2010). Her practice is driven by collaboration and dialogue.

Peter Stiles is co-director of the Art Writers Group and an artist and writer. He has exhibited widely throughout the South West and projects include The Samuel Taylor Coleridge festival, Vivarium (which looked at the George Eliot's interest in marine biology) and his current project which celebrates the wild flower illustrations of the Rev. Keble Martin. www.peterstiles.co.uk