

NMRG Presents:

BODIES: *Art, Architecture & Archaeology*

April 24, 2024

Presentations

10:00–12:30

BM117

Workshops

13:30–17:00

Studio 4 404/5

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PROGRAMME

10:00: Opening Address (NMRG)

10:30: Presentation 1: Dr. Lenore Thompson

11:15: Break

11:30: Presentation 2: Prof. Cordelia Warr

12:30: Lunch

13:30: Workshop 1: Dr. Victoria Sharples & Dr. Rebecca Howard

14:15: Workshop 2: Dr. Xristina Penna

15:45: Group Reflection

17:00: Close of Day

10:30: Presentation 1: Dr. Lenore Thompson

Exploring ancient residues and the bodies that crafted them

The theoretical framework of '*chaîne opératoire*' facilitates our understanding of how the things that make up the fabric of our lives can be produced and consumed. 'Craft Habitus' theory gives context to how things are made and used, considering the culturally specific gestures of making instilled into the objects from the hands of their makers. 'Artefact Biographies' enables us to interpret the journey each object travels throughout their 'lives'. Through these conceptual frameworks the audience will be engaged in conversation, exploring the worlds of ancient Roman metallurgists and their decisions that have left archaeologists with material culture residues. In this case broken and discarded bronze casting moulds from a Roman workshop in the fortified site at Castleford UK will be examined.

11:30: Presentation 2: Prof. Cordelia Warr

The early modern visual culture of wounds and stigmata

This paper considers wounds, both miraculous (stigmata) and non-miraculous in the early modern period. Experienced through the body by those who received them, they were translated into visual culture through descriptions, which provoked mental images; through painting, prints and sculpture; and through performances. By considering a range of visual expressions of different types of wounds, I seek to reflect on the complex questions relating to the nature and purpose of visual representation and its bodily effects.

13:30: Workshop 1: Dr. Victoria Sharples & Dr. Rebecca Howard

How can you create bodies in a new materialist way using clay?

NMRG co-leads Dr. Rebecca Howard & Dr. Victoria Sharples will facilitate a clay workshop that builds on their explorations into skin, most notably their exhibition and symposium: *An Elastic Continuum* (2023) to ask: How can you create bodies in a new materialistic way using clay? Through conversations with the disembodied chatbot: ChatGPT, Sharples and Howard have generated a series of step-by-step instructions that will play aloud to the room. These instructions will prompt participants to produce a material response and embrace the active agency of clay: a malleable, reciprocal material with obvious historical associations to the body through sculpture and moulding, that also connects to earlier conversations about objects and their traces and residues.

14:15: Workshop 2: Dr. Xristina Penna

Immaterialities

This workshop invites participants to observe, to touch/feel and 'zoom into' the textures and structures that surround us in a particular environment. Participants will be asked to trace the immaterial from the material: Which are the absences, or implied narratives and associations that exist for us within our surroundings? Starting from the clothes we wear, to how the floor and walls feel and look like, we will then go onto exploring any errors/glitches in the structures that surround us and make associations with our bodies, memories and the others around us in relation to those errors/glitches. In the second half of the workshop the participants will co-create a visual poem of this experience with the help of a system of cards and the breaking of a piñata. This workshop contributes to the performativity of absence and particularly in 'how is absence performed, materialized and objectified?' (Meyer, 2012: 103).