



Rediscovering our sculpture: an Art UK symposium

Thursday 11 March 2021

9.30am - 10.10am

Art UK Sculpture - connecting communities with their sculptural heritage

The opening session of the conference will provide an overview of Art UK's four-year project to digitise thousands of sculptures across the UK, held in collections and seen in our public spaces. Project Manager, Katey Goodwin, will talk about how we ran such an ambitious project and how we engaged with schools and communities across the country to gain a deeper understanding of the sculpture around us.

10.45am - 11.55am

Creating access to sculpture through Art UK's digitisation project

Digitising tens of thousands of sculptures involved the skills and dedication of hundreds of people – project staff, photographers, volunteers, and staff from collections across the UK. How did Art UK organise this work? Art UK's project team, who managed the digitisation programme, will outline the logistics of recording and photographing sculpture in a wide variety of settings.

Speakers

Hazel Buchan Cameron and Alison Mitchelson, Regional Digitisation Managers, Art UK, 'Those who can imagine anything, can create the impossible' – recording sculpture in collections

Jessie Maucor and Colin White, Photography Managers, Art UK, Photographing and recording sculpture in collections for Art UK Sculpture

Anthony McIntosh, Public Sculpture Manager, Art UK and Tracy Jenkins, Public Sculpture Officer, Art UK, Recording public sculpture and the volunteer experience for Art UK Sculpture

Chair

Katey Goodwin, Deputy Director and Head of Digitisation and Public Engagement, Art UK

12.10pm - 1pm

Sculpture and photography

This session looks at how the development of photography has provided greater access to sculpture and how images have been used for education and research. It will also

explore photography's potential to enhance the interpretation and experience of sculpture on display in a gallery setting.

Speakers

Michael Pritchard, Royal Photographic Society, Photographing sculpture in the nineteenth century

Alex Patterson, Assistant Curator of Fine Art, National Museums Liverpool and Derek Trillo, Freelance Photographer and tutor, Looking beyond the surface: The Visual Experience of Sculpture

Chair

Dr Camilla Stewart, Head of Commercial Programmes and Collection Partnerships, Art UK

1.15pm - 1.35pm

Virtual meet-up for conference participants

Your opportunity to meet fellow conference participants in a virtual setting. Discuss what you have seen so far in the conference and look ahead to the sessions to come.

Host: Katey Goodwin, Deputy Director and Head of Digitisation and Public Engagement, Art UK

2pm - 3.40pm

Public sculpture in the town and on campus

This session focused on public sculpture and how it is curated and presented in a variety of settings – in New Towns in Scotland and England, and on the campuses of two universities. How have these collections developed and evolved, and what are the connections between the sculpture and their local communities?

Speakers

Andrew Demetrius, Curator and PhD candidate, University of St Andrews, Scotland's New Town Art Movement

Kate Harding, Artistic Director, Harlow Art Trust, Harlow Sculpture Town

Layla Bloom, Curator of the University of Leeds Art Collection and the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, Curating the campus: new directions?

Michael Shaw, Lecturer in Fine Art, Loughborough University, Curating Sculpture in the Landscape

Chair

Professor Alison Yarrington, Professor Emerita of Art History, Loughborough University

4.15pm – 5.30pm

New approaches to curation and research

This session takes a detailed look at new research into sculptures and sculptors in collections in the UK, and how they are presented and curated.

Speakers

Louise Weller, Head of Exhibitions, Pallant House Gallery, Cathie Pilkington: A Sculptural Bag Lady

Rosamund Lily West, Paul Mellon Research Curator at the Royal Society of Sculptors, "Every sculptor of any standing": Pioneering Women at the Royal Society of Sculptors

Julia Carver, Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, Bristol Museums, Reflecting on Reg Butler: Curating the Nude and Naked for a 21st Century Audience

Chair

Ann Compton, Hon. Research Fellow, University of Glasgow

6pm – 7pm

Keynote session (details to be announced shortly)

Friday 12 March 2021

9.30am – 10.40am

New sculpture discoveries and research

This session focuses on new research, giving us a fresh view of the history and wider context of sculptures in UK collections. We will show how crowdsourcing of expertise through Art Detective has enhanced the records of sculptures recorded through the Art UK Sculpture project.

Speakers

Marion Richards, Art Detective Manager, Art UK, Art Detective sculpture discoveries

Malcolm Baker, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at the University of California, Riverside, Busts, Socles and Settings: Roubiliac's Busts for Lord Ligonier and their Context

Rebecca Wade, Art historian and curator, Beyond the Veil: An object biography of 'The Veiled Venus' by Kühne Beveridge and Ella Von Wrede

Chair

Dr Holly Trusted FSA, Senior Honorary Research Fellow, Victoria and Albert Museum

11.15am – 12.05pm

Reconsidering diversity and sculpture

In a post-colonial world, how do contemporary curators reclaim the collections built by their predecessors? Why have some sculptures been undiscovered until now? In this session two curators will consider sculptures within their collections, what they can tell us about our past and how we reclaim their unheard histories.

Speakers

Melanie Polledri, Curator of Art Collections Management and Access, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, [un]seen [un]heard: sculpture and diversity in the museum

Susannah Thompson, Glasgow School of Art, A Rediscovery?: Edmonia Lewis's Bust of Christ (1870)

Chair

Julia DeFabo, Social Media Manager, Art UK

12.30pm – 1pm

Virtual meet-up for conference participants

Your opportunity to meet fellow conference participants in a virtual setting. Discuss what you have seen so far in the conference and look ahead to the sessions to come.

Host: Katey Goodwin, Deputy Director and Head of Digitisation and Public Engagement, Art UK

1.30pm – 3.10pm

Sculpture and learning

Learning professionals across the UK are developing innovative programmes to engage people with sculpture, both in-person and online. This session focuses on best practice from recent engagement programmes, sharing what has worked in a variety of settings, from schools and museums to family days and street parties.

Speakers

Selina Levinson Drake, Learning and Engagement Manager, Art UK, and Shane Strachan, Learning and Engagement Officer, Art UK, The Art UK Sculpture project learning programme

Amanda Phillips, Learning and Access Officer, Leeds Art Gallery, Taking sculpture into school: a tale of struggle and magic

Jane Bhoyroo, Producer, Yorkshire Sculpture International, Yorkshire Sculpture International

Ruth Clarke, Inclusion Associate, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, Developing our inclusive practice – from touch tours to creative response

Chair

Katey Goodwin, Deputy Director and Head of Digitisation and Public Engagement, Art UK

3.45pm – 4.55pm

Sculpture in sound and vision

This session looks at how film and audio can be used to create better access to sculpture for a range of audiences, including young people and people with sight impairments. The session will also consider a key example of sculpture that challenges the traditional parameters of a three-dimensional art form, exploring space through the use of sound.

Speakers

Keith Alexander, CultureStreet, Making films of sculptures with schools

Anna Fineman, VocalEyes, Access to sculpture through Audio Description

**Lucia Farinati, PhD Candidate, School of Critical Studies and Creative Industries,
Department of Critical and Historical Studies, Kingston School of Art, Audio Arts Sound
Works: A case study of an expanded sculptural practice**

Chair

Dr Marion Richards, Art Detective Manager, Art UK