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constellations of conscience

Consciousness,
structure, agency

Museum in the Park, Stroud

Weds 14 November 2018 10am – 3.30pm

A one-day symposium examining the ethical and moral motives and social philosophy behind illustrators' and cartoonists' practice, towards developing a social conscience within a commercial practice.

Speakers:

Andrzej Krause, Political Cartoonist

Prof Brian Maidment, Liverpool John Moores University

Karrie Fransman, Graphic novelist and comics artist

Also to coincide with

The Cheltenham Illustration Awards Exhibition 2018

and launch of the 2018 Awards Annual

To register your attendance please email Dolores Phelps dphelps@glos.ac.uk

Organised by the Illustration BA and MA at the University of Gloucestershire. The Museum is located in Stratford Park, a ten minute walk from the train station. www.museuminthepark.org.uk

Faculty of Arts and Technology.
Mini-Symposium “Constellations of Conscience”

Name: Dolores Phelps / Jen Whiskerd / Kieren Phelps
Illustration BA, MA

School: Art & Design

Application Date: 19 Sept 2018 (revised Oct 15 2018)

Title of proposed project:

“Constellations of conscience:

Consciousness, structure, agency”

Date of event: Weds 14 November 2018, to coincide with Cheltenham Illustration Awards Exhibition

At Museum in the Park, Stroud

“none of us can transform everything, but each of us can transform something” – Myshele Haywood-Goldberg

Summary of proposed activity, with dates where applicable, indicating clearly if this is intended to be a complete outcome, developmental, collaborative and/or part of a strategy that includes external funding applications or already committed internal funding:

A one-day symposium examining the ethical and moral motives and social philosophy behind illustrators’ and cartoonists’ practice, towards developing a social conscience within a commercial practice.

The activist and writer Myshele Haywood-Goldberg, in her definition of “Social Conscience” for the University of Strathclyde and the Centre for Human Ecology, describes a framework whereby the triad of consciousness, structure, and agency interrelate to create a strong (or weak) social conscience.

“It will become clear in the course of conversation that each person has a unique ‘constellation’ of social conscience – their own particular blend of consciousness, structure, and agency. Many people are passionate about similar issues, but understanding why they are passionate, how they are passionate, and about what, exactly, will help us work more effectively with them....None of us can transform everything, but each of us can transform something. If we reflect on our values and where we feel called to serve, we can focus our efforts and better understand the efforts of others...”

The speakers will examine, investigate and discuss their own moral motivations and questions that have arisen during their development as Illustration practitioners.

The topics are proposed to cover various responses to ethical and moral questions:

- ☐ **Satirical responses: political cartoons and popular illustration of 19th, 20th and 21st centuries**
- ☐ **Raising awareness: Speakers will reflect on the meaning and relevance of having a social conscience in art and design,**
- ☐ **Personal experience: Reflection on long careers in Illustration and drawing and how issues such as female identity, social pressures or political views have created opportunities, challenges or obstacles within the constraints of commercial and real-life Illustration practice.**
- ☐ **The notion of ‘praxis’ and what it means when ideals or principles are integrated successfully into practice with intention and purpose.**
- ☐ **Historical perspective: An overview of the role of satire and how it reflects dissent and opposition to regimes which may be perceived to be unfair or oppressive (conversely, how satire can also repress progressive movements eg. Women’s Suffrage).**

Proposed/invited speakers:**Prof Brian Maidment, Liverpool John Moores University (Accepted)**

Brian Maidment is Professor of the History of Print at Liverpool John Moores University. His research interests are focused on the nineteenth century, especially mass circulation, popular and illustrated literature, and he has published widely on a broad range of topics, although more recently he has concentrated his interests on Victorian periodicals and early nineteenth-century visual culture.

Andrzej Krause, Political Cartoonist (Accepted)

Andrzej has contributed to The Times, New York Times, International Herald-Tribune, Sunday Telegraph, Bookseller, Listener, New Scientist, Campaign, Modern Painters and others. In 1985 he was appointed Visiting Lecturer at the Royal College of Art, and in 1997 External Examiner in the Department of Illustration. In 1996 he won the Victoria and Albert Museum Award for Illustration.

Karrie Fransman, Graphic novelist and comics artist. (Accepted)

Karrie Fransman tells visual stories in books, newspapers, animations, sculptures, on Ipads and in virtual reality. Her comics strips and graphic stories have been published in The Guardian, The Times, Time Out, The Telegraph, The New Statesman, The Young Vic, Psychologies Magazine, The Arts Council Create Magazine, The Goethe Institute and for The British Red Cross. She collaborated on animations for BBC Radio and IFRC Red Cross. Her graphic novel, The House That Groaned, was published by Penguin Random House's Square Peg. It received praise from film director Nicolas Roeg and was chosen as Graphic Novel of the Month in The Observer. She developed an award winning comic, 'Over, Under, Sideways, Down' about an Iranian teenage refugee, for The British Red Cross, created an installation for the British Council and Southbank Centre and was commissioned to make a 'Selves Portrait' for an exhibition with Manchester Art Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery. Her new graphic novel 'Death of the Artist' was published by Jonathan Cape in 2015 and was awarded a grant from the Arts Council England.

Provisional schedule/agenda

Chaired by Jen Whiskerd /Dolores Phelps ,

9.30 Coffee and introductions, etc

10am start

Introduction by Jen Whiskerd

10.15 Presentation by Brian Maidment

10.45 Break

11.15 Presentation by Andrzej Krause

12.00 Lunch – Vegan buffet provided by 'Poco Culina' of Cheltenham

1.00 Presentation by Karrie Fransman

1.45 Overview by Dolores Phelps of

research and personal projects by staff at UOG Illustration:

George Hounscome, Fumio Obata, Jen Whiskerd, Kieren Phelps, Dolores Phelps, Andrew Morrisson

2.30 Panel discussion/Q&A

3pm Closing remarks,

3.30 Close

Indication of the project's place within your research plans for the next few years, also giving some idea where this project will fit in to your submission for REF 2020:**This event**

- ☐ forms part of the research profile of the Illustration BA and MA
- ☐ will help to disseminate and promote subject-specific research, including providing examples to under- and postgraduate students on how research projects may be contextualised, framed and originated
- ☐ will forge new and productive links with related visual arts and humanities academics, suggesting and forming interdisciplinary applications and contacts with areas such as history, history of art, psychology and journalism
- ☐ will highlight the research potential of Illustration and how it may give rise to involvement in external projects and interdisciplinary studies (reportage/journalism, ethics, sociology, history)

The Illustration Department has several research active members who are involved with many different projects.

As a department we have been selected to hold a table by the 'Angoulême Festival de l'Image et la bande-dessinée' (the largest and most highly regarded of its kind in France) for six years running. Currently awaiting acceptance for 2019.

Fumio Obata: Work on the Fukushima disaster and related projects including exhibition of comic art “On the Palm of Unknown”, Beacon Museum in Whitehaven, Cumbria, until 25th March 2018.

Commissioned by Lakes International Comic Arts Festival, the art project makes surprising connections between the nuclear plants at Fukushima and Sellafield.

<https://www.comicartfestival.com/news/fumio-obatas-palm-unknown-exhibition-opens-whitehaven>

Risograph book “On the Brexit Train”, various artists, edited by Fumio, entered at Angouleme as part of selection submission 2019.

George Hounsome:

2018 – “Entangling” – an illustrative presentation of *“Human behaviour and its effect on nature ,upsetting the balance and changing the narratives of nature became themes, which I am exploring on a deeper level with Entangling. Here, though, it is ignorance and mass behaviour that has altered our environment. Entangling echoes this idea of changing nature through behaviour, something beautiful into something ugly, destruction through behaviour and habit.”*

<http://www.georginahounsomes.co.uk/blog/>

The book launch and exhibition was at The Forge, Bristol in August

Work also included in ‘A Pint of Science’ Exhibition Bristol 2017 (collaboration with researchers at Bristol University)

Has presented the project twice at Falmouth University - 2017, 2018

Work will be included in ‘Seeing Voices’ 3rd Cornwall Contemporary Poetry Festival, November 2018

Work for ‘Entangling’ also included in ‘BLUE’ - Group Show, Falmouth University, Cornwall to accompany the Fourteenth Illustration Forum from the MA Illustration team at Falmouth University, March 2016.

Kieren Phelps:

PhD application (Uni Glos) underway, focusing on narrative drawing.

Dolores Phelps: MPhil/PhD (Uni Glos) in progress, focusing on graphic visual language and the expression of emotion in illustration.

www.instagram.com/mynameisaurelia

Andrew Morrison: Book artist, Editor and producer of print journal ‘Techne’, which is retained by the British Library alongside several other works.

Jen Whiskerd: Editor and producer of multi-disciplinary project “Who We Are”, 1st volume 2017, 2nd volume currently underway (18th Nov.) and as part of related events to this one. This project takes stories from a group of diverse persons who have experienced migration to the UK, whether forced or voluntary, and invites students poets and artists to respond visually and collates the responses in a 3-colour Riso publication.

This event will form part of a series that promotes further investigation and follows on from the Cheltenham Illustration Awards exhibitions, events and symposia which have been running annually since 2007.

Indication of affiliations the research will develop, internal and external to University, particularly in relation to the identified Research Priority Areas:

Connecting with visual arts and other researchers:

By invitation to present (accepted) by academics from Liverpool John Moores University

By invitation to attend by relevant members of the Illustration research area plus related areas,

eg ‘Illustration Research’, ‘Studies in Comics’ (Editors: Julia Round (Bournemouth University), Chris Murray (University of Dundee), Winchester School of Art, Leeds Beckett, Glasgow University, Manchester School of Art, University of Worcester.

Proposed Outcome(s):

- ☐ **A multimedia report and presentation, featuring a discussion of the topic of social conscience in applied art based on this event, and the work of George Hounsomes and Fumio Obata which will also form the basis of a conference poster or paper, presentation at another University, or published paper in a related journal.**
- ☐ **Affiliations referred to in the above paragraph**
- ☐ **Opportunities to reflect and create further output upon the topics raised in subse-**

quent activities and events: eg, the 2019 Cheltenham Illustration Awards brief will be informed by the symposium.

- ☐ **Student learning outcomes for under- and postgraduate contextual studies : modules AD 5509; AD6500, AD7802 (postgrad)**
- ☐ **Recording** of event, made available on Media Library
- ☐ **Exhibition** at Museum in the Park, Stroud

Some related outcomes (not requiring funding) also being exhibited and taking place within the Stroud Museum/Illustration Dept partnership are a new edition of “Techne” (retained by the British Library) and a second edition of three colour Riso publication “Who We Are”, which reflect the ongoing research interest of Jen Whiskerd in displaced peoples and migration and our responses to them, which also relates to social conscience.

Funding sought, with breakdown of proposed expenditure:

Fees for guest speakers including travelling expenses:	£1,300 approx
Lunch and coffee breaks for attendees and speakers	£600 approx

Total	£2,000
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Please indicate which research projects you have already submitted to the University’s Research Repository (note applications where there is no research already placed in the repository will take less priority than those clearly documented as part of the school Research Repository).

“Duplex” illustration/comics and poetry project

“My Name is Aurelia” exhibition at Stroud Museum

“Right to Narrate” Illustration research symposium and related exhibitions

Application accepted, event took place as planned.

Video links

Transcripts

Presentations

Links

