

IrelandVenice 2009

Of Publics, Pedagogies and Academies: a conversation in a garden **Friday 5/5/09 Irish Pavilion, Venice Biennale 10:30-12:30**

On the occasion of the 53rd Venice Biennale exhibitions by Sarah Browne & Gareth Kennedy (representing Ireland) and Susan MacWilliam (representing Northern Ireland) - each of whom have teaching roles at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin - the Irish Pavilion will host a conversation on the recognizable turn to pedagogical models in recent international art practice and debate. Organised by the MA Art in the Contemporary World at The National College of Art & Design and the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media, Dublin, this event builds on earlier discussions that have taken place in Dublin and London and is informed by a book project under development between de Appel, Open Editions, and GradCAM, co-edited by Paul O'Neill and Mick Wilson, and due for release in Autumn 2009.

Pedagogical experimentation has been central to many recent curatorial projects and art practices, and this tendency corresponds to a resurgence of debates on the public sphere and the nature of 'counter-publics'. Increasingly, the art academies have sought to re-position themselves with respect to the broader field of practices beyond the academy - thus, the engagement by the National College of Art & Design, Ireland in supporting the realisation of the Irish pavilion in Venice 2009. There is at the same time an increased use of terms such as 'knowledge production' and 'public engagement' prompting the need to rethink the terms of the engagement between contemporary practice, educational institutions and the critical agendas of recent debates. In this larger context, this conversation seeks to unpack some of the issues entailed by the intersection of publics, pedagogies and academies in the spaces of contemporary art.

Participants in the conversation will be invited to approach a range of questions including:

- * What is the relationship between the question of 'public-ness' and the appeal to models of pedagogy in recent art practice?
- * What are the potentials for institutional change, renewal and revision within the academies presented by the convergence of these discourses?
- * In what ways might these developments require us to abandon institutional perspectives in favour of a resolute turn to informal and convivial dynamics beyond institutional domains and agendas?
- * Should we rather foster counter-pedagogies aligned with counter-publics beyond the academy?
- * What are the risks of institutionalisation and co-option in this arena?
- * What are the issues that most demand consideration in this context?

The MA Art in the Contemporary World, at The National College of Art & Design (NCAD) and the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media (GRADCAM), Ireland, welcome you to take part in this conversation on contemporary art and pedagogy at the Irish Pavilion, Istituto Santa Maria della Pietà, Calle della Pietà, Castello 3701. [Calle della Pietà is mid-way between San Marco and Arsenale, via Riva degli Schiavoni. Nearest Vaporetto stop: S. Zaccaria]. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information on the 'Publics, Pedagogies and Academies' event please contact Mick Wilson (mick.wilson@gradcam.ie), Declan Long (longd@ncad.ie) or Francis Halsall (halsallf@ncad.ie).

Following this discussion at the Irish Pavilion, Visual Artists Ireland will launch the latest issue of their contemporary art journal Printed Project. Issue editor Sarat Maharaj will lead a conversation with friends and colleagues on the issue theme: 'Farewell to Post-Colonialism - Querying the Guangzhou Triennial 2008'./