Mackintosh’s Contemporary: the Contemporary, Tradition and History

The Leverhulme International Network of Contemporary Studies Symposium at The Glasgow School of Art 1st September 2015
Mackintosh’s Contemporary: The Contemporary, Tradition and History

An International symposium with the Leverhulme International Network for Contemporary Studies (LINCS) at the Glasgow School of Art, 1st September 2015 will examine three moments of the contemporary on the GSA campus: namely the Mackintosh Art School itself as a ‘contemporary’ rather than ‘modern’ building; the Reid building as a contemporary reworking of the original Mac; and the project for the contemporary rebuilding of the Mackintosh library. The symposium will feature talks and events presented by academics, architects, artists, conservationists, filmmakers, historians and musicians.

9.00 am Opening

1/ Mackintosh’s Contemporary? And The New Reid building at Glasgow School of Art in its relationship to Mackintosh’s Masterpiece

Chair: Dr Frances Robertson

9.15 Ian Alexander ‘Correspondence’
Architect, Principal of JM Architects, site architects on the new Reid Building at GSA

9.45 Prof. Johnny Rodger ‘The Cubist Moment as paradigm for the contemporary’
Glasgow School of Art, Professor of Urban Literature.

10.15 Brian Park ‘Is Genius more than surface deep?: The ‘Masterpiece’ under post-fire scrutiny’
Principal of Page and Park Architects, the architects designing the ‘rebuilding’ of the Mackintosh.

10.45 Prof. George Cairns ‘Mackintosh and Glasgow School of Art: Contemporary reality and the ‘not-of-their-time’ myth’
Adjunct Professor at QUT Business School, Brisbane, his PhD at GSA produced detailed drawings of the Mackintosh’s school.

11.15 Coffee

2/ Re-Making Mackintosh–contemporary?

Chair: Alison Stevenson

11.45 Liz Davidson
Building Conservationist, Senior Project Manager of Mackintosh Restoration Project

12.15 Dr Robyne Calvert
Art Historian, Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh Research Fellow

12.45 Paul Clarke ‘Between the stone and the tree’
Reader in Architecture at the University of Ulster- Paul Clarke’s drawings of the Mac library were published by Phaidon. He is now working with the Page & Park team to rebuild the Mackintosh Library

1.15 –lunch break
3.00 film showing ‘A Beautiful Living Thing’

3/ Architecture & the Beaubourg effect: how the cultural building refocuses the contemporary city

Chair: Prof. Johnny Rodger

3.15 Prof. Charlie Sutherland
Architect, Principal of Sutherland Hussey Architects will speak on his work designing and building the New City Museum, Chengdu, Sichuan, China.

3.30 Dr Hu Lin
Tsinghua Univ. will speak on his work designing and building the New City Museum, Chengdu, Sichuan, China.

3.45 Prof. Stephen Davismoon ‘Spectral aura of the Beaubourg’
Composer, Head of Music and Performance at Salford University: Talk on IRCAM recording studio (set up by Pierre Boulez) as part of the interdisciplinary ‘contemporary’ at Beaubourg (Prof Davismoon has spent several working residencies at IRCAM), and a site specific performance of specially composed music for the Holl building at GSA.

4.15 Prof Lionel Ruffel ‘Displaying the Contemporary’
Contemporary and General Literature at Paris 8 University. He introduces the historical and aesthetic category of the contemporary as a question of display and shows how the transformation of the public spaces of art played a major role in establishing the contemporary.

4.45 Dr Mitchell Miller
writer and illustrator, Miller has just completed his PhD at GSA developing a specific type of drawing called the dialectogram which engages a range of social and artistic techniques contemporaneously. He will talk about his application of the technique to the Mackintosh building.

5.15 Wine

5.45 Music Performance ‘Sounding the Reid’

6.30 Close
**Performances**

*Sounding the Reid*
This specially composed site specific piece of music will be performed in live in and throughout the Reid building in promenade at GSA. Music composed by Stephen Davismoon incorporating texts on the Reid building by Johnny Rodger, Steven Holl and Charles Rennie Mackintosh performed by a flautist, violinist and mezzo-soprano.

*A Beautiful Living Thing*
The film by artists Ross Birrell and Jo Crotch, which shows specially composed music being performed in the burnt out ruins of the Mackintosh Library.

**Event Sponsors:** The Leverhulme Trust, Glasgow School of Art, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Salford University, The Drouth.

*This is a ticketed but free event. Tickets can be found on eventbrite at*

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mackintoshs-contemporary-tickets-17707322077
The Leverhulme International Network of Contemporary Studies

1st-3rd September 2015, Glasgow School of Art and University of St Andrews

The Mackintosh’s Contemporary Symposium on 1st September at Glasgow School of Art is the first part of a three day event by the Leverhulme International Network of Contemporary Studies (LINCS), and the second part will be held on 3rd September at the University of St Andrews.

The Leverhulme International Network of Contemporary Studies is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and was formed by five partner institutions, bringing together five established scholars working in complementary areas, to lay the foundations for a new, transdisciplinary, field of ‘Contemporary Studies’.

The project’s first aim is to gather together a broad range of existing theories and practices of the contemporary. In the past ten years that ‘the contemporary’ has emerged both as a research term and in non-academic discourses. Why? What has this term created, facilitated and legitimised? In what social, institutional, political, and geographical context(s)? Did something comparable exist in previous eras? What next? (Is there a post-contemporary?). These are just some of the questions which the Leverhulme International Network for Contemporary Studies partners will explore in organised events, conferences and workshops.

The partners and their institutions are:

Glasgow School of Art
University of St Andrews
Université Paris 8
University of Delhi
University of Quebec at Montreal

Professor Johnny Rodger
Professor Margaret-Anne Hutton
Professor Lionel Ruffel
Professor Ravi Sundaram
Professor Bertrand Gervais