

THE LIVING SCHOOL

SAT 6 FEB 2016, 12-5PM, PECKHAM LIBERAL CLUB

SLG

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THE LIVING SCHOOL: EXPULSION SAT 6 FEB 2016

The Living School is a mobile event series organised by Brandon LaBelle which focuses on the issues of housing, common property, and the precarious subject. Given the tremendous unsettling of secure housing in London and elsewhere, questions about the right to public housing are pressing. Such questions equally force additional questions as to the politics of access, the constitution of community life, property as public good, as well as the power of the weak and strategies of resistance and renewal. *The Living School* is an open gathering for sharing and developing dialogue, and for advancing a critical, creative and embodied engagement with this current situation.

Organised as four public sessions which take place in different locations across London (February–June 2016), the *School* will integrate invited presentations, interventions, and collective work, and is structured through methods of improvisation, experimental pedagogy, and self-organised criticality, in which particular topics, such as expulsion, poverty, and self-building, are considered. In particular, *The Living School* searches for ways to actualise an imaginative response – an emergency dwelling – for wondering aloud as to the future of public living.

The first session of *The Living School*, a mobile project on questions of living together, will focus on the theme of *The Expelled*, and will include presentations by Jane Rendell and Irit Rogoff. They will consider the question of expulsion, eviction and displacement, giving a broader view onto the systematic upheaval of people. In addition, a participatory workshop will be led by the urban art collective zURBS, which will engage with the local neighbourhood and open up a dialogue between our own positionality and spatial politics.

SCHEDULE

12.00 - 12.30pm Welcome and Introductions, Brandon LaBelle

12.30 - 1.15pm Jane Rendell

1.15 - 2.00pm *Lunch break*

2.00 - 3.30pm zURBS workshop

3.30 – 3.45pm *Break*

3.45 - 4.30pm Irit Rogoff

SPEAKERS

Brandon LaBelle is an artist and writer living in Berlin. His work addresses the relation between the public and the private, sociality and the figure of the outcast. This results in situational projects and performances, interventions in public spaces, acts of translation and archiving, as well as micro-theatre aimed at the sphere of the (un)common.

Also a prolific writer, he is the author of *Lexicon of the Mouth: Poetics and Politics of Voice and the Oral Imaginary* (2014), *Diary of an Imaginary Egyptian* (2012), *Acoustic Territories: Sound Culture and Everyday Life* (2010), and *Background Noise: Perspectives on Sound Art* (2006). He is the editor of Errant Bodies Press and Professor at the Bergen Academy of Art and Design, Norway.

Jane Rendell is a writer, art critic and architectural historian/theorist/designer, whose work explores interdisciplinary intersections between architecture, art, feminism and psychoanalysis. Her authored books include *Site-Writing* (2010), *Art and Architecture* (2006), and *The Pursuit of Pleasure* (2002) and she is currently working on a new book on transitional spaces in architecture and psychoanalysis. She is co-editor of *Pattern* (2007), *Critical Architecture* (2007), *Spatial Imagination* (2005), *The Unknown City* (2001), *Intersections* (2000), *Gender, Space, Architecture* (1999) and *Strangely Familiar* (1995) and is Professor of Architecture and Art, and Vice Dean of Research at the Bartlett, UCL.

Irit Rogoff is a theorist and curator working at the intersection of contemporary art, critical theory, and emergent political manifestations. She is Professor of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths College, University of London, where she heads the PhD in Curatorial/Knowledge program and the MA in Global Arts programme. Her practice deals with geography, globalisation, and contemporary participatory practices in the expanded field of art. Within the collective freethought—a platform for research, pedagogy, and production—she is currently developing a research, discourse, and display platform on “infrastructure” for the 2016 edition of the Bergen Assembly in Bergen. In addition to contributing to numerous anthologies and catalogs, her publications include *Looking Away—Participating Singularities, Ontological Communities* (2013); *Visual Cultures as Seriousness* (2013) (with Gavin Butt); *Unbounded: Limits' Possibilities* (2012); and *Terra Infirma: Geography's Visual Culture* (2000). She has also published in periodicals such as Art Journal, e-flux journal, and Third Text. Rogoff lives and works in London.

zURBS (www.zurbs.org) is an urban research and art collective, working with a participatory approach in which a wide range of participants are invited to take part in workshops, exhibitions, model-making, treasure hunts, games, seminars, expeditions and walks in order to experiment with different approaches to how we can re-imagine the urban through imaginative and creative processes that question what urban space means and is. zURBS is a collaboration between Sabeth Tödtli, Nina Lund Westerdahl and Cecilie Sachs Olsen.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Living School: Poverty
Sat 12 Mar, £5/£3 Conc, The Ivy House Pub, Nunhead

With Liz Allen, archivist Toynbee Hall, Andrew Conio, lecturer, University of Kent, and Andrea Luka Zimmerman (Fugitive Images.)

For this second session in the series, the school will concentrate on the topic of poverty. This will be traced through presentations on indebtedness and liquidity, the history of the settlement house movement, and homeless communities who sustain marginal living. Poverty will be brought forward not only as a scene of being without, but equally as the basis for forms of resistance and expressions of weak-strength.

The Living School: Self-Built
Sat 7 May, £5/£3 Conc, Limehouse Town Hall

With Chris Jones, 56a archive

For this third session of *The Living School*, the school will take shape through a collective self-building project. Run by Chris Jones from 56a archive, practices of squatting and poaching will form the background for collectively building a temporary shelter. By sharing knowledge, working together, and imagining forms of dwelling, a deeper sense for the politics of the built environment will be developed and shared.

The Living School: Shared Space
Sat 11 Jun, £5/£3 Conc, (Location TBC)

With Eva Rowson, The Caged Antelope

For this fourth and final session of *The Living School*, presentations and activities will circulate around the issue of shared space. How might we imagine spaces of inclusiveness or togetherness, especially those that may expand potential experiences of community life? Are there possibilities for enriching the dynamic qualities of the built environment in support of new social identities? And relations between strangers and neighbours? The session will aim to engage such questions while also performing as a space of coming together.

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