

Surreal Things: Surrealism and design, 11 – 12 May 2007

Speakers' biographies

Tim Benton

Professor of Art History, former head of department and Dean of Arts, The Open University, Milton Keynes. Publications include *Les Villas de Le Corbusier et Pierre Jeanneret: 1920–1930*, *The Modernist Home* as well as 'Le Corbusier: La Villa La Roche', 'Villa Savoye and the Architect's Practice', 'From the Arengario to the Lictor's Axe: Memories of Italian Fascism', 'Humanism and Fascism', 'The little "maison de weekend" and the Parisian suburbs', 'From Jeanneret to Le Corbusier: Rusting Iron, bricks and coal and the modern Utopia', 'Pessac and Lège revisited: standards, dimensions and failures', 'Charlotte Perriand: Les années Le Corbusier' 'Representing Modernism' and numerous other chapters and articles. Exhibitions and exhibition catalogues include *Thirties: British Art and Design Before the War* (co-curator); *Le Corbusier: Architect of the Century* (co-curator), *Le Corbusier.: La Ricerca Paziente* (co-curator); *Le Corbusier et la Méditerranée* (co-curator); *Art and Power: Europe Under the Dictators 1930–1945* (co-curator); *Art Deco* (co-curator and co-editor of the catalogue) and *Modernism: Designing a New World*.

Stephanie D'Alessandro

(M.A., Ph.D., University of Chicago) is Associate Curator of Modern Painting and Sculpture at the Art Institute of Chicago. A specialist of the art and culture of the Weimar Republic, D'Alessandro has lectured and published widely. Works of note include *German Expressionist Prints: The Marcia and Granvil Specks Collection* (2004); *Das Gesicht der Weimarer Republik: Physiognomische Diskurse 1918 bis 1933* (2000); and *Still More Distant Journeys: The Artistic Emigrations of Lasar Segall* (1997). At the Art Institute, D'Alessandro has organised such exhibitions as *Poetics of Scale* (2003) and *Juan Muñoz* (2002). Currently, she is planning the reinstallation of the museum's collection of modern art, and in particular its holdings of Surrealism, for the Renzo Piano's Modern Wing (summer 2009). She is also preparing the first comprehensive catalogue of the Art Institute's European modern art collection (2009) and the exhibition *Matisse and the Methods of Modern Construction* with MoMA (2010).

Martin Eidelberg

Martin Eidelberg, Professor Emeritus in Art History at Rutgers University, taught there for thirty-eight years. In addition to his studies on Antoine Watteau and French art of the eighteenth century, he has written extensively on decorative arts of the first half of the twentieth century. He edited and co-authored the prize-winning book, *What Modern Was, Design 1935–1965*, has published studies on ceramist Leza McVey and designer Eva Zeisel, and was the editor of *Messengers of Modernism, American Studio Jewelry 1940–1960*

Krzysztof Fijalkowski

Krzysztof Fijalkowski is a Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Critical Studies, Norwich School of Art and Design. His research interests focus on aspects of international

surrealism, with recent publications considering surrealism and domestic space, surrealist economies, and Czech surrealist photography. He is a contributing author to the Surreal Things catalogue.

Lewis C Kachur

Lewis Kachur is Associate Professor of Art History at Kean University of New Jersey; teaching a range of courses in Modern and Contemporary Art and Photography. He completed his Ph.D. at Columbia University and has had a long association with the Guggenheim Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, as a contributor to their education programming. His book: *Displaying the Marvelous: Marcel Duchamp, Salvador Dali and Surrealist Exhibition Installations* was published by MIT Press, Cambridge. He has contributed to the forthcoming book, *Marcel Duchamp and Eroticism*, (ed. Marc Décimo, Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

Alyce Mahon

Dr Alyce Mahon is Senior Lecturer in History of Art and a Fellow of Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. She has published widely on Surrealism and post-World War Two European art – including essays on Hans Bellmer, Salvador Dalí, Pierre Klossowski, André Masson and Unica Zürn, and is the author of *Eroticism and Art* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and *Surrealism and the Politics of Eros 1938-1968* (Thames & Hudson, 2005). For the academic year 2006–7 she is a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Art & Archaeology at Princeton University, where she is researching a book on 1960s performance art.

Alistair O'Neill

Alistair O'Neill is a Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at London College of Fashion/University of the Arts London. His first single-author publication, *London – After a Fashion* (Reaktion Books, March 2007), is published to coincide with the exhibition and international conference, Surreal Things.

Gavin Parkinson

Gavin Parkinson completed his Ph.D. at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and taught subsequently at the Courtauld and at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is a Departmental Lecturer in the History of Art Department at the University of Oxford, specialising in Surrealist art and thought, the interfaces between art and science, and questions of interpretation in art history with particular reference to Marcel Duchamp and Postmodernism. He has published essays, articles, and book reviews on Surrealism and modern physics, Marcel Duchamp, and Adolf Wölfli. In 2007–08, he will publish three books: *Surrealism, Art, and Modern Science* (Yale University Press); *The Duchamp Book* (Tate Publishing); and a collection of his writings on aspects of Surrealism.

Hans Stofer

Hans Stofer is known as a designer, maker, teacher, writer, curator, publisher of editions and ambassador for promoting the handmade, designed object with meaning.

Hans was born and brought up in Switzerland and trained as a precision engineer. Unfortunately his Swiss upbringing has not left its mark on his time keeping – which is flawed to say the least. However his engineering background fostered a love for developing ideas through objects and materials, problem solving and working collaboratively.

After a nomadic life travelling and working in various countries he decided to change his life and focus on craft based design. He gained an MA in Jewellery and Design in 1984 at the Zurich School of Art and Design, set up a successful workshop selling his own work, gained a licence to flog Alessi and made a living realising prototypes for designers and architects in Zurich. These contacts and his travelling experiences proved to be invaluable and provided the foundation for a more inclusive and international approach to craft based, creative practice. In 1987 Hans and his family emigrated to London. Hans used the geographical and cultural change to reinvent himself as someone he wanted to be.

Today he is Professor and Head of Department at the Royal College of Art where he is responsible for the Goldsmithing, Silversmithing, Metalwork and Jewelry department. He is part of the London based design HUB 57/65 established this year with the Dutch-Israeli furniture designer Jair Straschnow.

Ghislaine Wood

Ghislaine Wood is the curator of the V&A's major spring exhibition, *Surreal Things: Surrealism and Design* (29 March – 22 July 2007). In 2003, she was lead curator of the V&A's critically acclaimed and popular exhibition, *Art Deco, 1910–1939*. Three years earlier, she was deputy curator of *Art Nouveau, 1890–1914*. She is a member of the V&A's Research Department. Ghislaine has edited the book, *Surreal Things: Surrealism and Design* (2007) to accompany the exhibition. She co-edited the book accompanying the Art Deco exhibition and contributed to the Art Nouveau book. She is author of the forthcoming *The Surreal Body* as well as *Essential Art Deco* and *Art Nouveau and the Erotic*.