

Regional Study Day
30th March 2019
Street Level Photoworks
103 Trongate, Glasgow

Dr. Wendy McMurdo, Zoe Wright, Eileen Carr, Laurie Bradshaw, & Neil Gallacher.

Group

Welcome to a newcomer. Eileen Carr is a drawing student who has just enrolled with the OCA in February and has come along to see what the study day entails. We introduced ourselves and gave a short resume of where we are and what we are doing.

Following on from our visit to the Arpita Shah exhibition we discussed the use of materials, scale, and bringing objects into the project.

The exhibition got the group thinking about anonymity, confrontation, visibility, photographing the back of the head to preserve confidentiality
Mumbai Archive

Neil Gallacher

I presented 20 images from the archive of Lady Henrietta Gilmour, a Scottish photographer from the nineteenth century. Her landscape work is the theme for his critical review as part of the L2 Landscape course.

Discussion ensued about photographing the land and reference was made to Annie Lydon and also mentioned was Lady Clementina Hawlorden who produced photographs mainly of her daughters in a home studio utilising the first floor and of using a closet as a darkroom.

Practitioners to research included Roger Fenton, Julie Margaret Cameron and Eliza Sans Souci McNally. Advice when visiting the archive held at St Andrews University is to ensure good light, ask about a copy stand and to examine in what context the photograph is taken. Also researching her contemporaries is vital for the critical review.

Following a brief lunch we returned to the presentations by students.

Laurie Bradshaw

Laurie has been looking at recording sound at the wind farm and has had to buy a muff for the microphones due to the first attempted recordings consisting of too much ambient wind noise thus rendering the audio unusable.

She discussed tidying stuff around her coursework and of her research into different types of paper. Laurie loves paper and loves making books. She has also been enjoying playing around with text. She has been pointed in the direction of Ian Hamilton Findlay's work 'Little Sparta' and with regards to papermaking, Jackie Parry and Elspeth Lamb.

Laurie mentioned the Fife-based artist Katie Paterson and her upcoming tour 'First There is a Mountain' at Portobello beach in June 2019. Check out the Fruitmarket Gallery website for details.

<https://www.fruitmarket.co.uk/exhibitions/>

Laurie also mentioned the Ingleby Gallery and the Charles Avery exhibition.

Zoe Wright

Zoe is tackling the constructed image from L1 Context and Narrative. She has been directed to research Mark Wilson and The Last Stand, War Sand that examined beaches in the Second World War. Also of mention was The Dazzle Ships by Ciara Philips, which was held at Leith docks for the 100th memorial anniversary of World War 1.

Zoe also discussed her photographs involving reflections of pictures in mirrors similar in theme to a Francesca Woodman series. Wendy asked about using a mirror in the landscape and perhaps starting with the garden. Experimentation such as mounting the mirrors by using the garden to bury the mirrors deep enough to hold them in position and stay upright was a strategy mentioned. We also discussed the evolution of the mirror used in photography through to the current trend of a flipped (mirror) photographic image as used by the smartphone. We discussed the appearance of mirrors in photography and Wendy mentioned Vivian Maier, (American) photographer in her spare time but working as a nanny. With most of her negatives and photographs unknown it wasn't until after her death boxes and suitcases were discovered resulting in them receiving critical acclaim. Wendy also mentioned trying photographing with several mirrors set up.

Eileen Carr

Eileen is new to the OCA having started her first drawing course in February this year. She has come along to see what a study day entails and to see what she can expect and also what is expected of her. I am pleased to say that Eileen enjoyed the day and is hoping to be at the next one and to bring along another new student with her.

Group

The group then discussed the budget and how we don't know if there is a budget per-se or a limit. Neil has agreed to check with the OCA about this and feed back to the group.

We also discussed the proposal of using one of our study days to host a research based workshop by a fellow OCA tutor however the general consensus is that the study days are fixed and agreed upon by the group and we would not want that changed. However if such an event became available, even with a cost, the group would consider attending.

Before finishing Wendy mentioned that she there is another arranged study visit that we should make note of:

Saturday 20th April at National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. 11am-2pm