

Organising Discourse Open Lecture

Emily Pethick (UK)

Time: Thursday 16 April 2015, 6 - 7 PM

Venue: Konstnärsnämnden, Iaspis projektateljé

Maria Skolgata 83 Stockholm. T-bana: Mariatorget/Zinkensdamm



The Showroom, Penfold Street, London. Photo: Daniel Brooke

The fourth Organising Discourse Open Lecture 2015 looks the organization of a small-scale art space and how it operates. Emily Pethick, director of The Showroom in London, will talk about how it has developed over the recent years through various collaborations.

The Showroom

The Showroom is a space for contemporary art that is focused on a collaborative and process-driven approach to production, be that artwork, exhibitions, discussions, publications, knowledge and relationships. Its focus is on commissioning

work that is generated through open and discursive means between artists, specialists, public and local stakeholders, connecting otherwise disparate fields and communities.

A central aspect of The Showroom's work is a commitment to its neighbourhood, Church Street, where an on-going programme of projects, Communal Knowledge, was initiated in 2010, now led by Louise Shelley. CK enables close collaborations between artists, young people and community groups in the shaping of new projects that collectively explore issues at stake in the locality.

The talk will focus on how the organization developed over the last six years through the projects it has been producing, many of which have involved different kinds of collaborations, particularly with local residents and groups, as well as how The Showroom works with both local and international networks.

The Showroom's recent programme includes: Ciara Phillips' exhibition *Workshop (2010 -ongoing)*, 2013, was nominated for Turner Prize in 2014; Lawrence Abu Hamdan's audio essay *The Freedom of Speech Itself*, 2012; Beatrice Gibson's film *The Tiger's Mind*, 2012; and The Otolith Group's exhibition *A Long Time Between Suns* (2009) was nominated for The Turner Prize in 2010.

Emily Pethick has been the director of The Showroom, London, since 2008. From 2005-2008 she was the director of Casco, Office for Art, Design and Theory, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. From 2003-2004 she was curator at Cubitt, London. She has contributed to numerous catalogues and magazines, including *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Afterall*, *The Exhibitionist*, and *dot dot dot*, and edited books, such as *Casco Issues X: The Great Method* (2007, with Peio Aguirre), *Casco Issues XI: An Ambiguous Case* (2008, with Marina Vishmidt and Tanja Widmann), *Circular Facts* (2011, with Mai Abu Eidahab and Binna Choi), pub. Sternberg Press), *Cluster: Dialectionary* (2014, with Binna Choi, Maria Lind and Natasa Petresin-Bachelez).

ORGANISING DISCOURSE is an independent postgraduate course at Konstfack, exploring and developing platforms for discourse within the crafts, design and architecture. It aims to support and invigorate the development of new conceptual and physical spaces for presentation and display, meetings, discussions and debate, research and modes of production, etc. Within the crafts, design and architecture, it focuses on experimental, investigative and critical practices. Course leader is Magnus

Ericson, project coordinator, curator and guest teacher at
Konstfack, University College of Art, Crafts and Design.

This lecture is presented in collaboration with Iaspis, The
Swedish Arts Grants Committee's International Programme for
Visual Artists