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Working in Public

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Abstract

How do we understand the value and impact of artists working in the public sphere? What are we seeking in best practice? How can we learn from best practice?

These questions have led to the development of new research - *Working in Public*. The research takes advantage of the presence of the artist and critical writer, Suzanne Lacy at Gray's and her concern to focus on a body of work as a case study – the Oakland projects 1990-2000. In this period Lacy worked with the youth and adults of this area of San Francisco to redress the image of young people in the adult world. The Oakland projects represent a complex, long term body of experience of an artist working in relation to a specific set of social issues with the aim of creating change.

We have developed an innovative and experimental learning space with Suzanne Lacy. This is enabling us to analyse this body of work in the US in relation to key experiences and related theory in Europe. We will explore issues that this learning space is beginning to reveal about the potential of art to take a role in shaping the public sphere.

Biogs

Dr Anne Douglas is the Reader of Art and Public Pedagogy, Gray's School of Art, The Robert Gordon University. She directs the On the Edge research programme that is concerned with the development of new thinking on the role of artists working in the public sphere. There are currently two major research strands within this work, the Working in Public Seminar series with the artist Suzanne Lacy, funded predominantly by the Scottish Arts Council and the Artist as Leader research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

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www.workinginpublicseminars.org

www.ontheedgeresearch.org

Reiko Goto lives in the West Midlands, and works as a PhD candidate with the 'One the Edge' Research, at Gray's School of Art. Her research focuses upon art, ecology and its impacts upon public places and policies. She is also currently working on the seminar series "Working in Public" as a project manager. Reiko has been recognized for her achievements in applied research in art and ecology from 1994-2005. She co-directed the 'Nine Mile Run'; and the '3 Rivers 2nd Nature' projects; and is a 'distinguished research fellow' at the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania U.S.A. (106 words)

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