

A conversation to know if there is a conversation to be had

A one-day meeting of female artists living and working in the UK at Raven Row in October 2011.

This event is the fourth in a series of private meetings to take place in semi-public spaces in the cities New York (Dexter Sinister), Amsterdam (Kunstverein), Berlin (Salon Populaire), and London, from 2010-11. The goal is to engage a critical discussion amongst female practicing artists to address our complicated relationships to a long history of feminism and female art history. 'A conversation..' aims to create a set of questions, or rather work together on editing a relevant series of questions about being a woman in the arts. This serves as an opportunity for professional female artists from varied fields to speak frankly about the current or underlying values and expectations as a female artist in the art world.

The event is a day-long discussion based in part around materials that people provide, but which usually follows loosely from the interests of each person attending. I will ask each person who can attend if to send me any questions and/or one or two short readings that you think are relevant. I will compile and distribute these to all the participants to have a couple weeks before the meeting. This list of questions and readings will serve as catalysts for the day to begin a conversation, and will be used as an anchor in the discussion to edit, expand and react to throughout the day. Usually each meeting lasts about 6 hours and takes the format of a roundtable.

I have started a magazine out of the discussions, with the idea that a regular periodical will create a network of contributors from the four cities, and address the main concerns discussed in all the meetings. The first issue of the magazine is entitled LABOUR and addresses the general conditions of feminized labour, and how a feminist reading of work benefits a critique of a current scenario. Other ideas can be pursued, as the overall project is open and expandable.

The meeting will take place at Raven Row on either October 24th or 31st 2011. Please RSVP by October 5th to let me know which of the dates are possible for you. We will be meeting from 10.30 until about 4.30; I understand that some people may only be able to come for part of the day.

Here is a brief set of questions that I would propose to begin with. I hope these can set a context in which you would feel excited to add your own questions or propose readings:

- What aspects of feminism in art history feel like they still open new avenues and which feel constraining?
- Is there a female subjectivity? Is it dependent on context?
- Is expression valued equally between men and women artists?
- How does one relate to the historic value of 'women's work', and would there be a benefit of self-organization in the art world?
- Is talking about yourself as a woman artist something that can only be done in certain contexts and why?

Please note: This list of artists below is incomplete. Please do let me know if there is anyone that I can invite that is not listed here. The conditions are simply that someone is a professional female artist, working primarily as an artist and living and working in the UK.

Also please note that there is no funding for this event, so I cannot offer any re-imburement for travel costs. Many artists are being invited from Glasgow and if it seems more appropriate to organize a Glasgow meeting, I would be happy to do this.

The invitees are: (with the hope that 15-25 are able to attend):

Tomma Abts
Claire Barclay
Anna Barham
Becky Beasley
Vanessa Billy
Karla Black
Juliette Blightman
Christine Borland
Lisa Brice
*Rachal Bradley
Bettina Buck
Frances Burden
Varda Caivano
Stella Capes
Spartacus Chetwynd
Alice Channer
Celine Condorelli
Kate Davis
Annabel Frearson
Ruth ewan
Annabel Frearson
Beatrice Gibson
Melanie Gilligan
Nadia Hebson
Sophie von Hellerman
Janice Kerbel
Anja Kirschner
Kaisa Lassinaro
Linder
Hillary Lloyd
Marie Lund
Lorna Macentyre
Christina Mackie
Goshka Macuga
Daria Martin
Ursula Mayer
Elizabeth McAlpine
Sara McKillop
Rosalind Nashashibi
Grace Nditru
Saskia Olde Wolbers
Silke Otto Knapp
Amalia Pica
Gail Pickering
Philomene Pirecki
Olivia Plender
Elizabeth Price

Laure Provost
Clunie Reid
Audrey Reynolds
Hannah Rickards
Eva Rothschild
Karin Ruggaber
Anjalica Saga
Maiike Schoorel
Lucy Skaer
Imogen Stidworthy
Cally Spooner
Lucy Stein
Corin Sworn
Jo Anne Tatham
Milly Thompson
Hayley Tomkins
Sue Tomkins
Phoebe Unwin
Francis Uprichard
Marina Vishmidt
Emily Wardhill
Rebecca Warren
Nicole Wermers
Jessica Wiesner
Carry Young
Maria Zahle

Kind Regards,

Melissa Gordon