

# Crate diving, midgie rakers and select archivists: Rifling through the past

Friday 21 September – Saturday 22 September 2012

Main Gallery, CCA, Free

## **Programme Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

### **11.30am Francis McKee – What is an archive?**

This talk looks at the issue of archives in contemporary art and their function or relevance within a contemporary arts organization. Focusing on the third eye video archive, it assesses the value of the tapes historically and queries the role archives have assumed in contemporary practice. Francis McKee is the director of CCA.

### **2pm Marysia Lewandowska – j’approve**

In the autumn of 2009, during her residency at Centre for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, NY, artist Marysia Lewandowska invited a group of young curators (Laurel Ptak, Michelle Hyun, Michal Jachula) to participate in her Negotiations project. For the following 3 months each of the collaborators engaged in a process of securing a release into the public domain of recordings made by Lewandowska in London in the 1980s as part of her ongoing work known as the Women's Audio Archive. ([www.womensaudioarchive.org](http://www.womensaudioarchive.org)) One of those negotiations documented in the following exchange of emails with the Donald Judd Foundation and VAGA (Visual Artists and Galleries Association Inc) in New York, resulted in a lengthy process of arguing for an unrestricted online access to the original audio recording of Judd's public lecture given in London in 1986.

Changes in terms of use and access allow for common ownership often exposing the limits of proprietary regimes. The bureaucratic process involving many actors and procedures, points to the fact that securing the final outcome and mutual agreement requires a deeper critical reflection about the social structures which artists are implicated in. Freeing cultural artifacts and knowledge from commercially driven concerns forms a vital part of all of the emergent practices.

### **3.45pm Adam Lockhart – Video Art: The Physical Materials and the History**

Adam Lockhart is Archivist for the research project ‘Rewind | Artists’ Video in the 70s and 80s’, based at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design (University of Dundee). He has established himself as a leading specialist in archiving and conservation issues for artists’ video. He also worked on the research project ‘Narrative Exploration in Expanded Cinema’ at Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London. He was a member of the Future Histories of the Moving Image Research Network. He has acted as curator, co-curator and consultant for a number of screenings and exhibitions at places such as Tate Modern, Tate Britain, BFI Southbank, Ambika P3, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Scottish National Galleries of Modern Art, Stills Edinburgh and Streetlevel Photoworks Glasgow. He has given lectures at various institutions including Edinburgh College of Art, University of Sunderland, FACT in Liverpool and University of Westminster. He is also involved in creating and producing sound, avant-garde and alternative music.

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### **3pm Claire Staunton**

Claire Louise Staunton is the curator and director of the Flat Time House, the home and studio of the late British artist John Latham. The House, located in Peckham, is home to the John Latham Foundation and to the John Latham Archive. Claire Staunton will discuss the archive and its mysterious logic, the online digital archive which operates as a whole new artwork and how she works with contemporary artists and curators to activate the archive, keeping it alive and dynamic.

### **5pm David Toop**

David Toop is an English musician and author, and as of 2001 was visiting Research Fellow in the Media School at London College of Communication. He was notably a member of The Flying Lizards. He was a prominent contributor to the British magazine *The Face*. He is a regular contributor to *The Wire*, the U.K. based music magazine. Among his books are *Ocean of Sound* (1995), *Haunted Weather: Music, Silence, and Memory* (2004) and *Sinister Resonance: The Mediumship of the Listener* (2010). In a recent *Wire* article the writer Simon Reynolds declared 'We are all David Toop now'.

The format for the presentation is a discussion between David Toop and Francis McKee, focusing on his research in the BBC sound archive in the 1970s as the basis for a more free-ranging conversation that will welcome participation from the audience.