

Performance-as-Research Working Group

Sub-Group 4

Workshop Plan

Thursday 16th June 10:30-12:00

At the start of the workshop, participants will be asked to display their 'archival document / object' as per the previous e-mail request made to the Working Group by members of Sub-Group 4. Ideally, we might have some tables that can form a platform, from which to exhibit the range of objects (some of which might include access to electrical power). If not, the exhibit might be curated on the floor. Ideally, if possible, this might happen quickly in advance of the 10:30 start time.

10:30-10:40: Surveying: Walking the Gallery

Participants will be asked to walk and view the gallery, taking notice of what objects/documents they are drawn to.

Each participant will be asked to select an artifact/object to work with for the first portion of the workshop. Ideally, each participant will pair up with one different item, so that each object is being engaged.

Participants will be encouraged to take the artifact / object to a space in the room that they are comfortable working with on their own; they should have a pen and paper; or other method of note-taking with them.

Observers will be encouraged to move through the space, taking notice of the ways that participants are engaging with these objects over the course of the workshop; they are also encouraged to document the process through media of their choice.

10:40-11:00: Engaging & Noticing the Artefact

artefact: an object made by a human being, typically one of historical or cultural interest.

A series of scaffolded prompts will be offered to participants as they explore and consider the object:

- What is it that drew you to this 'artefact' / object?
- Is it familiar to your art-making practice?
- Consider its tactility (shape, material, feel, weight, etc)? (If digital, consider more specifically the device, format, layout, etc; and whether or not this is a reproduction / representation of an original?)

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residue: A small amount of something that remains after the main part has gone or been taken or used.

- Considering this to be the residue of a past project; what information might you glean from this object about the larger work (consider form, aesthetic, style, etc.)
- Imagine and scribe a short history; a story, a tale, or a myth around this object?
- Create a list of questions for the owner of this object?

11:00-11:20: Re-Acquainting with the Artefact

Participants will be asked to leave their written words beside the object. Participants will then be asked to return to the artifact / object that they brought; and to spend some time reading the new writing that emerged from their object.

A series of scaffolded prompts will then be offered to participants as they explore and reconsider their own object:

nostalgia: A sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations:

- Why did you choose this artefact / object to bring to the conference?
- How and why was the object preserved?
- How has the 'new writing' on your object opened your lens, re-directed or perhaps re-aligned you with critical engagement with it;
- In what ways has nostalgia factored into your experience with this process; and what is the relationship or function of nostalgia within critical reflection?

enigmatic: mysterious and difficult to understand

- Considering the difference between then (when the project was produced), and now, how has time complicated, confused or made mysterious aspects of the project?
- Considering the difference between then (when the project was produced), and now, how has time shed new light and opened possibilities on that work?
- What new questions does the artifact/object trigger?
- In what direction does engagement with the artifact object point you in relation to the work? Is there a spark to re-enact, to report, to adapt, to deconstruct, to teach, to bury deep, to forget, to destroy via this object?

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11:20-11:35: Sharing & Exchanging Histories in Small Clusters

Participants will quickly group up with the person who worked with their artifact / object; which will hopefully form small clusters and slight overlaps. They will be encouraged to initiate a dialogue around the actual objects, (not their process of working through the prompts), both actual and imagined histories.

Observers are encouraged to join clusters as they see fit; and to share their observations in relation to the dialogue.

11:35-12:00: Reflecting on the Process

The larger working group will re-gather to discuss and reflect on the workshop considering:

- Use of terminology: artefact, archive, nostalgia, residue, critical reflection, pedagogy
- The possible lines of inquiry in relation to the papers
- Noticings: The experience of engaging with the artifact of someone; and the experience of returning to your own artefact
- The structure, format and delivery of the workshop