

All Over the Place: Drawing Place, Drawing Space.

Introduction

This is a collaborative venture between LAND2 and the Drawing Research Group, University of Lincoln co-convened by Jayne Bingham and Judith Tucker. This initiative consists of an exhibition of selected artists from the two groups, invited guest artists and a series of accompanying symposia with a publication. It is also intended to tour the show. The LAND2 website will host symposium papers and other details.

This first stage of the project takes place at the University of the West of England Bristol. There is an exhibition between the 7th and 21st November 2008 in the F Block Gallery with a symposium on the 8th November.

There will be other venues and symposia in 2009, to be confirmed.

Rationale

The framework and emphasis of the exhibitions, symposia and publication will be on the relationship between drawing and both theoretical understanding and phenomenological experiences of place. The structure and theme of the symposia and the layout of the exhibitions would be such as to emphasise the continuous and or spontaneous relationship with place through drawing.

The symbiotic questions that we seek to consider are the following:

- What can the act and process of drawing contribute to or invest in an understanding of place?
- How can a consideration of place inflect a drawing practice?

The exhibitions and symposia and final publication will focus on drawing as collaborative or conversational exploration of the mutable nature of the relationship described above. In this instance the collaboration or conversation is between maker/s and their subject matter, in other words, an exploration of what drawing might contribute to the construction of meaning in response to place.

Context

There are many potential interrelations between drawing and notions of 'place' and 'space', which include possibilities for both viewer and maker. The following references have provided an indicative framework for us to situate a response:

All Over the Place is a working title borrowed from the introduction to Lucy R. Lippard's *The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multi-centred Society* in which she describes place as

latitudinal and longitudinal within the map of a person's life. It is temporal and spatial, personal and political. A layered location replete with human histories and memories... It is about connections, what surrounds it, what formed it, what happened there, what will happen there ⁱ

It would seem that this notion of place might equally well be applied to drawing, for example: *drawing* as a layered location replete with human histories and memories. The feminist geographer Doreen Massey proposes an equally open, unstable, fluid provisional and contested approach to 'place' and here she emphasises the importance of disconnections as much as the connections

If space is ...a simultaneity of stories-so-far, then places are collections of those stories, articulations within the wider power geometries of space. Their character will be a product of these intersections within that wider setting, and of what is made of them. And too, of the non-meetings-up, the disconnections and the relations not established, the exclusions. All this contributes to the specificity of place. ⁱⁱ

In many ways drawing might be a privileged medium through which to explore these kinds of connections and disconnections. In the following passage Emma Dexter considers how drawing too is mutable and uncertain

A drawing enjoys a direct link with thought and with an idea itself. Its very nature is unstable, balanced equally between pure abstraction and representation; its virtue is its fluidity. A drawing can be highly controlled and delicate, an act of homage, redolent of personal memory, or it can be automatic, responding to irrational elements or chance encounters of materials.ⁱⁱⁱ

All Over the Place; Drawing Place: Drawing Space will open up the opportunity for a conversation between the practice of drawing and considerations of place, both of which might be considered to be open and becoming and perhaps through that dialogue something new might be created.

Judith Tucker and Jayne Bingham 2008

ⁱ Lucy R. Lippard, *The Lure of the Local :Senses of Place in a Multi-centred Society* (New York: The New Press 1997) p. 7.

ⁱⁱ Doreen Massey, *For Space* (Los Angeles and London, 2005) p.130

ⁱⁱⁱ Emma Dexter, *Vitamin D, New Perspectives in Drawing* (London and New York: Phaidon 2005) p. 10