

# Describing Architecture 2014 Memory and Place

## A Counterpoints Arts' Learning Lab Space, Place and Communities of Practice



Venue:

**'Describing Architecture' Exhibition,  
City Assembly House,  
58 South William Street, Dublin 2**

Date:

**Wednesday 29 October 2014, 5:30 - 8:30pm**

Contact:

**[events@describingarchitecture.com](mailto:events@describingarchitecture.com)**

**Moderated by Dr Áine O'Brien - Co-Director,  
Counterpoints Arts in collaboration with MA in Socially  
Engaged Art, NCAD and the Centre for Transcultural  
Research and Media Practice, DIT**

*Space concerns our relations with each other and in fact social space, I would say, is a product of our relations with each other, our connections with each other.... The distribution of those relations mirrors the power relations within the society we have.*

*Doreen Massey, Doreen Massey on Space, 2013*

This year's *Describing Architecture* considers how a sense of place is registered and recorded in collective and individual memory, and further asks how narratives of place - both real and imagined - are reenacted.

**Learning Lab** will facilitate a community of practice – a context for learners from the creative arts, architecture and other areas of interest to interact with *Describing Architecture's* 2014 theme of 'Memory and Place'. We will do so in collective dialogue with selected works from the exhibition – comprising artists and architects working across painting, photography, mixed media, audio and film. This conversation will also include Dublin-based 'Vagabond Reviews', who will discuss their current project, *Scientia Civitas: Missing Titles* for the upcoming exhibition at the Hugh Lane, *Phoenix Rising, Art and the Civic Imagination*.

## **‘Memory and Place’ and the Dynamics of Social Space**

Whether working with or within intimate, contested, anonymous or regimented sites - refugee camps, domestic homes, public institutions, abandoned buildings, public arenas, border zones, cities, rural landscapes, housing estates or anything other - the dynamics of place and social space are repeatedly formed by intricate historical legacies and lived realities of local and global human relations.

How are we differently positioned as dwellers, architects, designers, visual artists, filmmakers and writers to critically observe, creatively imagine and contribute to the re-construction of places and social spaces? In what ways is the act of representation shaped by energies of co-creation, collaboration and participation? To what end and for whom?

Why does it matter that our cultural and disciplinary ‘toolkits’ are often determined by diverse ways of experiencing and knowing places and social spaces? How do we make sense of the human, affective dimensions of place? Can place and social space – with its traces, hauntings, marks and memories – speak its own tacit story? What role do artists and architects play in revealing the nuances of this embedded story?

Our aim in this Learning Lab will be to unpack/unsettle some of the prevailing methodological assumptions about ‘memory and place’ and the politics of social space - what Doreen Massey names as the often-unequal distribution of ‘geographies of power’.

Counterpoints Arts’ Learning Lab: *Space, Place and Communities of Practice* invites artists and architects to challenge received notions of ‘memory and place’ and the dynamics of social space - to think and do in new ways to new audiences.

Join us for a lively discussion on Wednesday 29 October, 5:30 - 8:30pm

**Learning Lab is produced and led by Counterpoints Arts in collaboration with British Council**

