

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

CAROLINA CAICEDO

Carolina Caicedo is a co-founding member of The Decorators, a multidisciplinary design practice working with local authorities and public institutions to design, produce and deliver placemaking and community building interventions in the public realm. Working mainly in areas undergoing change, they deliver work that aims to reconnect the physical elements of a place with its social dimension. The Decorators' expertise lies in designing community engagement strategies through events and spatial interventions that build on local knowledge, assets, skills, and resources to unveil and celebrate the unique qualities and cultures of a place. Interested in how regeneration can be done from within Carolina works with The Decorators to inspire a process of change that retains local culture.

Carolina's most recent projects include Hackney Circle an engagement programme developed with Hackney Council that aims to make the new Dalston Square in Hackney more welcoming for its older residents and Barking Food Court, a project to reinstate a public use to a once civic building. Carolina has a BSc in psychology and an MA in Narrative Environments from Central Saint Martins.

the-decorators.net

PAUL SWINNEY

Paul Swinney is Principal Economist at the Centre for Cities - the first port of call for UK and international decision makers seeking to understand and improve UK cities' economic performance.

CfC's main goal is to understand how and why economic growth and change takes place in Britain's cities, and to produce research that helps cities improve their performance. Through their focus on the drivers of urban success, they have developed a deep understanding of the economic performance of UK cities. They work with cities, business and Whitehall to ensure their work is relevant, accessible and of practical use to cities and the policy community.

In his role as Principal Economist, Paul leads on the data analysis undertaken by the Centre. He has a particular interest in research on the spatial development of city economies, private sector growth, and enterprise. His current work focuses on the role that city centres play in the wider city economy, the evolution of out of town employment sites and what this means for future economic growth.

Paul is a regular media commentator, including print, radio and TV, and has spoken at conferences across the UK on subjects relating to the performance of city economies. He has an economics degree from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and a Postgraduate Certificate in Econometrics from Birkbeck College.

centreforcities.org

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

IAN NESBITT

Ian Nesbitt's socially engaged practice spans documentary film, cinema activism, co-production and community organising. It focuses on exploring peripheral territories and working innovatively with marginal communities. He is interested in uncovering 'wild' systems and initiating rogue networks within the managed structures and manufactured communities that are handed down to us. His projects are largely collaborative, working with both artists and non-artists.

Graduating in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent in 2004, Ian's work has been shown at Nottingham Contemporary; Broadway Cinema; One Thoresby Street and Bonington Gallery (Nottingham); Anarch; 21 Vyner St and the Nunnery Gallery (London); Eastside Projects (Birmingham); Bloc Projects (Sheffield); G39 (Cardiff); Glastonbury Festival; Sheffield Doc/Fest; Liverpool Biennial; Amorph (Helsinki); Oberhausen Film Festival (Germany); Centre For Contemporary Art, Moscow (Russia) and on BBC2 and TG4 Ireland. He recently completed a Sound And Music commission collaborating with the avant-folk ensemble Dead Rat Orchestra, and is currently working on a Social Housing Arts Network commission in Sheffield.

iannesbitt.co.uk

RUTH LEVENE

Ruth's work attempts to reveal systems that are often hidden but that shape our everyday lives. She questions our relationship to those systems and how they, in turn, impact and disconnect us from nature and the natural resources we rely upon. She has been exhibiting her artwork since she completed her MSc from Duncan of Jordanstone in 2001 and recently completed a research residency in The Faculty of Engineering, University of Sheffield. Ruth is currently working with The Pennine Water Group on a new work around the hydrological/social cycle and collaborating with artist Anne-Marie Culhane, Farmer Peter Lundgren and a collective of 42 on A Field of Wheat.

Ruth has shown work at ICA (London); Arnolfini (Bristol); KIASMA (Helsinki); Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art (Sunderland) as part of AV Festival; Dundee Contemporary Arts and Computer Arts Festival, Maribor (Slovenia). She has been in residence at Yorkshire Sculpture Park and undertook an ACE Fellowship at Colima, (Mexico) and Artsadmin 2020, Krapanj (Croatia). Ruth has also been long-listed for Northern Art Prize, Dazed Converse Art Prize and Jerwood Choreography Award. She has been commissioned by the National Trust, Cragside (Northumbria), in Trust New Art and Cornerhouse (Manchester).

ruthlevene.co.uk

OLIVIA KEITH

Concerned by the loss of cultural diversity in the face of globalization, Olivia Keith strives to accentuate elements of intangible cultural heritage – traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants.

She is interested in that which is easily overlooked as ‘common and everyday’; the way people do things, the flavour of their words, the power of place names, the ever-shifting uses and significance of weeds. . .

The making of large scale reportage drawings of people engaged in activity is Olivia’s preferred method for recording and initiating dialogue with a community. Her tangible, often multi sensory, artworks (sculptures, installations, performance and reportage drawings) are reminders that this heritage is alive and functioning. . . . and evolving.

oliviakeith.co.uk

LAUREN VELVICK

Lauren Velvick is a writer, artist and curator based in Manchester. She is currently Co-Director of the Exhibition Centre for the Life and Use of Books, and Programme Co-ordinator at Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool.

She is a regular contributor to national and local arts publications including Art Monthly, The Skinny, The Double Negative and This Is Tomorrow and is a Contributing Editor of Corridor8.

Lauren graduated from the University of Manchester in 2010 with a degree in History of Art, curating *Sunk Costs*, 2011, and *Hoist by Our Own Petard*, 2012 at Islington Mill, Salford in the following years. During 2013 Lauren took part in the activities of the Lionel Dobie Project, Manchester with a residency culminating in the publication of *An Un-Sound Experiment*. As Co-Director of The Exhibition Centre for the Life and Use of Books Lauren has produced events, performances and screenings including WE (Pil & Galia Kollektiv), Simon Bookish and Jennet Thomas, and in 2015 was featured in Modern History Vol.I, curated by Lynda Morris.

Lauren is also currently co-ordinating a six-person residency and commissioning project based around the work of Christopher Joseph Holme, an unknown Preston artist whose work she is custodian of.

l-velvick.tumblr.com

GAVIN RENSHAW

Gavin Renshaw’s practice is concerned with topography, local histories and the ability to interact and respond to the city, predominantly in regard to its architectural infrastructure. Often associating with Outsider art and graffiti culture, he explores the topophilia associated with place in an attempt to strike an unspoken dialogue between the established and the divergent. This analysis can take the form of photography, painting, map-making or print.

lancashireroads.tumblr.com