

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

JULIA HESPLOP

Julia Heslop is an artist and writer. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Architecture at Newcastle University. The potentials for deep participation in (re)creating the urban realm, and in particular housing, are at the centre of her research and practice. Her practice often takes the form of large scale architectural installations in urban space and she often works in collaborative, slow ways with groups and communities. In so doing she uses her practice to ask important questions regarding land and property ownership, housing precarity, urban planning and local democracy.

juliaheslop.com

PETER HETHERINGTON

Peter Hetherington is a journalist and author, who writes regularly for Society Guardian on communities and regeneration. His book *Whose land is our land?: The Use and Abuse of Britain's Forgotten Acres*, published in 2015 by Policy Press, argues that Britain, particularly England, needs an active land policy to protect against record land price increases that threaten food security and housing provision for Britain's expanding population. He is the former Manchester-based northern editor of *The Guardian*, and a trustee and former chair of the Town and Country Planning Association.

theguardian.com/profile/peterhetherington

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

OLIVIA KEITH

Olivia Keith is concerned by the loss of cultural diversity in the face of globalization, and 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.

oliviakeith.co.uk

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.

iannesbitt.co.uk

RUTH LEVENE

Ruth Levene'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.

ruthlevene.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.

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