Paul O’Neill

Lecture 20.11.

The Curatorial as Constellation: Durational Public Art and Cohabitational Time

Paul O’Neill's lecture will look at how “the curatorial” can be conceived of as a constellation, resists the stasis of the curator-artist-spectator triumvirate and supports more semi-autonomous and self-determined aesthetic and discursive forms of practice that may overlap and intersect, rather than seeking a dialectic (image) or oppositional presentation (form). O’Neill will look at this concept by exploring how “durational” processes to public art curating and commissioning have emerged as an alternative to nomadic, itinerant and short-termist approaches in recent years. The lecture provides a dynamic assessment of different curatorial methodologies alongside critical reflections on durational projects as counter-spectacles. It will demonstrate how a progressive understanding of the curatorial as a constellation of activities is essential to grasping durational approaches to public art and how curatorial processes conceive of time as part of a cumulative practice.

Dr. Paul O’Neill is an artist, curator, educator and writer based in Bristol in the UK. Paul has co-curated more than fifty exhibition projects including: Our Day Will Come: A free-school art project, Hobart, Tasmania (2011); We are Grammar, Pratt Institute Manhattan Gallery, New York (2011). He is currently a research fellow with the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media, Dublin, and a tutor on the de Appel Curatorial Programme. His new authored book The Culture of Curating, The Curating of Culture(s) has recently been published in September 2012 (Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press). He is editor of Locating the Producers: Durational Approaches to Public Art (Amsterdam, Valiz, 2011) and co-editor of Curating and the Educational Turn with Mick Wilson (Appel and Open Editions, Amsterdam and London, 2010).