

# The Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park

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## **Celebrating *The Art of Jeffrey Rubinoff***

Proceedings of the 2016 Company of Ideas Forum of The Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park

2016 Forum Convenor

**Dr. James Fox**

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**Preface**

This volume is the record of proceedings of the ninth annual Forum held at The Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park. The purpose of the Forum series is to advance the perception of art as a source of knowledge.

The 2016 Forum was convened by noted Cambridge art historian Dr. James Fox. The 2016 Forum is focused on a discussion of Dr. James Fox's soon to be published anthology entitled *The Art of Jeffrey Rubinoff*. The authors of seven of book's twelve chapters will present their work, which will be followed by a dialogue session.

A student workshop led by Natalie Massong was held concurrently to the 2016 Forum. The workshop allowed students of history at the University of Victoria a chance to view and discuss Rubinoff's work in more detail.

## **2016 Company of Ideas Forum Delegates' Biographies**

### **Allan Antliff**

Allan Antliff began his appointment as Canada Research Chair at the University of Victoria in 2003. He has taught courses on activism and art, anarchist aesthetics, Russian Constructivism, New York Dada, and a host of other subjects dealing with modernism and contemporary art. In addition to his art historical work, he is Director of the Anarchist Archive at the University of Victoria where he is involved with archival acquisitions and the development of the Archive's Digitization Centre and on-line Virtual Archive. Allan is art editor for the interdisciplinary journals *Anarchist Studies* and *Anarchist Developments in Cultural Studies*. Allan is the author of three books and is editor of *Only a Beginning*, an anthology of the anarchist movement in Canada. Active as a theorist and art historian, he has written on a wide range of topics including pedagogy, post-structuralism, new media, and aesthetics. In his role as art critic he has published numerous art reviews and feature articles in journals such as *Canadian Art Magazine*, *Fuse*, *C Magazine*, and *Galleries West*. He has also contributed to exhibition catalogues for the Whitney Museum of Art, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and other institutions. Allan has produced two feature programs for CBC Radio: *Guernica: A Political Odyssey*, (2007); *Anarchy and Art and Activism* ( 2002).

### **Mark E. Breeze**

Mark E. Breeze is a Harvard-trained architect, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, and University of Cambridge-based academic. He has practiced architecture in Beijing, New York and London and worked for a range of prominent architects, including Norman Foster. He has taught architecture and film at leading universities in both the United States and United Kingdom, and has held fellowships at the United States Library of Congress and The Huntington Library, Los Angeles. His current research engages with notions of the cinematic in architecture as part of a UK Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project.

### **Peter Clarke**

Peter Clarke is Professor Emeritus of Modern British History at the University of Cambridge and former Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1989. His many books include *Keynes: the twentieth century's most influential economist* (Bloomsbury, 2009); *Mr Churchill's Profession: statesman, orator, writer* (Bloomsbury, 2012); and the acclaimed final volume of the *Penguin History of Britain, Hope and Glory, Britain 1900–2000* (1996 and 2004; now 19th printing). His new book, *The Locomotive of War*, is also published by Bloomsbury. Clarke reviews books for the *Financial Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement*.

### **James Fox**

James Fox is an art historian, and Fellow of Gonville & Caius College Cambridge, having previously been based in Harvard, Churchill College, Cambridge, and the Yale Center for British Art. He has published widely on twentieth-century art. He is the author of *British Art and the First World War, 1914-1924* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and is currently writing a book entitled *The Meaning of Colour* for Allen Lane (Penguin).

### **David Lawless**

David Lawless is an environmental scientist, filmmaker, and musician. He holds an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology from the University of Guelph and a Master of Science in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Management from the University of Oxford as a Mackenzie King Fellow and Alexander Graham Bell Scholar. His research investigates the science, policy, and history of protected areas around the world. David has worked with Parks Canada as a naturalist and interpreter, managing art and science projects in four national parks across Canada.

### **Joan Pachner**

Joan Pachner is an independent scholar specializing in modern sculpture. She published *David Smith* (Phaidon, 2013) and was a curatorial consultant and catalogue coauthor for *Tony Smith: Architect, Painter, Sculpture* (MoMA, 1988); she is currently working on the catalogue raisonné of his sculpture. Dr Pachner was a curatorial consultant at the Storm King Art Center (1996-2005) and has published and lectured on other sculptors, including Anthony Caro, Gaston Lachaise, Jose de Rivera and George Segal. For the past ten years she has lectured and taught classes at the Museum of Modern Art.

### **Sergei Petrov**

Born in Moscow in 1953, Sergei Petrov graduated from the elite Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology. He earned his advanced degree in the Reliability of Complex Electronic Systems at the Soviet Centre of Advanced Defence Studies in Moscow. His professional photographic career began in 1978 when Sergei left his position as a researcher in the Soviet defence industry and began working for leading Russian publishing houses. He photographed sculpture and paintings in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg. In 1981, he became a dissident, first coming to international attention in 1982 when he spent 50 days on a hunger strike in an attempt to emigrate. Unable to leave the Soviet Union, Sergei completed a number of assignments for Western magazines including *Architectural Digest*, *Discover*, *New York Times Magazine*, and *Le Figaro*. In 1988 an "in absentia" exhibition of his work was opened at the State Department in Washington DC by former US Secretary of State George Shultz. The following year Sergei was finally permitted to leave the Soviet Union, the culmination of years of sustained pressure from the US Government and, in particular, President Reagan and the US Ambassador to Moscow, Arthur Hartman, and his wife, Donna. His art was featured in *American Photographer* and *The Washington Post Magazine*. In 1991 The Corcoran Gallery

of Art made a purchase of his work. Sergei's art was featured in the Masterpieces of the Russian Underground project at Lincoln Center in New York in 2003. He continues to pursue his passion for art and continues his research in information technology and data security.

### **Vid Simoniti**

Vid Simoniti is the inaugural Jeffrey Rubinoff Junior Research Fellow at Churchill College. In 2015, he completed his doctorate in History and Theory of Art at Oxford under the supervision of Jason Gaiger and Hanneke Grootenboer. He also holds a BA in Philosophy and Politics (Reading), MA in Philosophy (UCL), and B.Phil. in Philosophy (Oxford). Vid's research focus is the idea of art as an intellectual discipline, which he investigates from historical and philosophical perspectives. His current monograph project, 'Artist as a Thinker: From Conceptual Art to Art as Research', investigates this idea in relation to post-1960 art movements such as conceptual, computer and laboratory-based art. In addition he has wide-ranging interests across philosophy and history of art, having presented or published on topics including neuro-aesthetics, Virginia Woolf's essays and Schopenhauer's aesthetic theory. Vid also often collaborates with artists on research-based exhibitions, and writes on art and literature for various British and Slovene publications.

### **Maria Tippett**

Maria Tippett is a Canadian cultural historian, the author of fifteen books one of which won the Governor General's Award for English language non-fiction in 1979. Raised in Victoria, Maria lived in Europe for three years following high school then attended Simon Fraser University. In 1982 she received her doctorate in history from the University of London. Tippett has been a member of the editorial boards of the Canadian Historical Review, Arts Canada and Art Focus, and was an Arts Journalist fellow at The Banff Centre in 1988. In 1989, Tippett was a guest curator at the London Regional Art Gallery in London Ontario and from 1996-2000 chair of the Churchill College Art Gallery in Cambridge. In 1992 she was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She has received honorary doctorates from Windsor University (1994) and from the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University (2006).

## **FINE ARTS AND ART HISTORY STUDENTS**

### **Munazzah Akhtar**

Munazzah Akhtar is a doctoral candidate at the Department of Art History and Visual Studies, University of Victoria. Her research interests include: Islamic funerary architecture, cross-cultural issues in Islamic art and architecture of South Asia and the British colonial period architecture in India. She was awarded the University of Oxford Barakat Trust Award in 2014 and is currently a SSHRC Doctoral fellow (2015-2017) and Ian H. Stewart Graduate Student Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society. For her doctoral research

project, Munazzah is studying the architecture and decoration of the select monuments at Makli necropolis (a UNESCO world heritage site in present-day Pakistan), constructed between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries.

### **Alexandra Macdonald**

Alexandra Macdonald is a second year MA candidate in the Art History and Visual Studies Department at the University of Victoria. An emerging eighteenth-century specialist, her research interests include the work of Johan Zoffany; conversation piece portraits; images of the family and domestic setting; gossip, satire and humor; print culture; and the social history of the long-eighteenth century. Her current Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded research explores gossip and gossip studies as a tool for serious scholarly study of social and political print culture, self-fashioning, and the commissioned portrait as image repair. Currently interning in the Education Department at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Alexandra is interested in emerging pedagogy and its relationship to the art museum. In particular, her work focuses on engaging school aged children with art in a meaningful way at an early age. Alexandra's work as an emerging educator was recognized with a nomination for The University of Victoria Andy Farquharson Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Students in 2016.

### **Natalie Massong**

Natalie Massong holds a BA in Mediterranean Studies and an MA in Art History & Visual Studies from the University of Victoria. She received a Fellowship and a Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her master's studies. Natalie's main research interests encompass Medieval and Early Modern Europe focussing on Italian public spaces and their art objects. Using the case study of Bologna, her work has explored the evolution of civic sculpture and space and the formation of the Republic's identity. Building on Natalie's master's work, her doctoral research will examine the impact of sculpture and space on the experience of the early modern citizen. She has been accepted to pursue doctoral studies in History of Art at Trinity Hall, Cambridge University.

### **Nicola MacWilliam**

Nicola MacWilliam has recently completed the first year of an MFA in Writing at UVic and is currently at work on a poetry manuscript exploring aspects of colonial life on the west coast using in part narratives from her settler family which goes back five generations on her mother's side. She is especially interested in the settler's tenuous and utilitarian connection to the land and their troubled relationship with the First Nations people who were the previous tenants. One of the focal points of the manuscript will be a forty acre piece of land on Salt Spring Island that has been in her family for generations which also happens to have been a WSANEC village site containing two burial sites that have been identified as 2,300 and 7,000 years old respectively. It's her hope that the chthonic realms can speak through her poems and that she can find adequate ways to address the collective amnesia that

has governed her family's silence about the people who were here before. Nicola has worked as a high school teacher on Vancouver Island, the United Kingdom and Austria. She has also lived in Slovakia where she taught ESL and worked on her "Slovak Chronicles." She has a background in Fine Arts as well as Creative Writing. She also has an interest in spirituality, having studied Gurdjieff and Ouspensky, and currently does a spiritual practice originally received by a remarkable Indonesian man which is now done in forty two countries by people of all religions.

### **Graham McMonagle**

Graham McMonagle is a theatre designer and ballet dancer, whose career has taken him across North America, working in a wide range of styles, from baroque opera with Opera Atelier, to contemporary dance on film with Erica Randall and Tiffany Rhinehard at Ohio State University and University of Illinois. McMonagle was principal dancer, and later resident designer of Columbus Dance Theatre. His interest in design for dance led to an extended collaboration in the classical ballet vernacular with choreographer Roberta Taylor at Canadian Pacific Ballet, exploring nineteenth century physical and design modes, and resulting in the production of more than 15 full-length ballets, including re-staging "lost" works, contemporary examinations of the standard works in the classical repertoire, and creation of new works in related creative modes. His interest in re-conception and representation of period image for contemporary audiences has informed three recent designs for Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre. Mr. McMonagle is currently engaged in his Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Victoria.

### **Atri Hatef Naiemi**

Atri Hatef Naiemi is a second-year PhD student in the Department of Art History and Visual Studies at the University of Victoria. Her major area of research is the art and architecture of the Islamic Middle East. In her PhD dissertation she focuses on the urban foundations that developed during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in Iran. Atri received her BA degree in Architecture, the University of Qazvin (2006) and her MA degrees in Architectural Conservation, the University of Tehran (2010) and in History in Art, the University of Victoria (2014)

**Other attendees**

Jeffrey Rubinoff

Betty Kennedy

Charo Neville

Craig Willms

Marlowe Rainey

Karun Koernig

John Kirk

John McGilivray

Vaughn and Susan

Heather Goldman

Dick Goldman

Debbie Frktich

Frank Frktich

John Nemy

Carole Nemy