

The Period Room: Museum, Materiality, Experience

The Bowes Museum

Barnard Castle, County Durham

Thursday 18th, Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September 2014

Thursday 18th September

9.30 **Registration** and refreshments

10.00am **Welcome** by Adrian Jenkins, Director of The Bowes Museum

10.10am **Introduction to conference** (Mark Westgarth)

10.20am-11.00am **1st Keynote Talk** – Thomas Michie (Senior Curator of Decorative Art and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

11.00am - **First Session** – Contexts and Networks (introduced by Mark Westgarth)

Paper 1 – 11.05am-11.30am: Tom Stammers (University of Durham) *The Politics of the Historic Interior in late 19th century France*

Paper 2 – 11.30am-11.55pm: Clare Taylor (Open University) *Scholars, dealers and decorators: in search of the Georgian period room*

Paper 3 – 11.55am-12.20pm: Heidi Egginton (University of Cambridge) *“An Exquisite Public Exhibition”: Period Rooms and the Merchandising of Heritage and Antique Goods in the West End, c.1880-1914*

12.20pm - **Discussion/Questions**

12.35pm Lunch

1.30pm – **Second Session** – Interpretation and Display (introduced by Jane Whittaker)

Paper 4 – 1.35pm-2.00pm: Jennifer Komar Olivarez (Minneapolis Institute of Art) *The role of narrative in the Period Rooms at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts*

Paper 5 – 2.00pm-2.25pm: Mel Buchanan (New Orleans Museum of Art) *New Orleans Museum of Art, case study Period Room from the Butler-Greenwood Plantation*

Paper 6 – 2.25pm-2.50pm: Eleanor Quince (University of Southampton) *When is a Period Room not a Period Room? Remodelling the Higgins, Bedford*

2.50pm - **Discussion/Questions**

3.05pm – Refreshments

3.20pm – **Introduction to The Bowes Museum** (Jane Whittaker and Howard Coutts)

3.50pm - **Tour of The Bowes Museum English Interiors Galleries** (Jane Whittaker and Howard Coutts)

4.45pm Close of 1st Day

6.00pm-7.30pm - **Wine Reception at The Bowes Museum**

8.00pm **Conference Dinner** (to be booked separately)

Friday 19th September

9.30am **Registration** (day 2) and Refreshments

10.00am - **Welcome** (Jane Whittaker)

10.05am – 10.45am – **2nd Key Note Talk** – Giles Waterfield, (Former Director, Dulwich Picture Gallery)

10.45am - **Third Session** – History and Taste: (introduced by Howard Coutts)

Paper 7 – 10.55am-11.20am: Valentin Delic (Universalmuseum Joanneum, Graz) *Karl Lacher and the Period Rooms in Graz from c.1890: a case study in early period Room display*

Paper 8 – 11.20am-11.45am: Anne Soll (University of Potsdam) “*Old Rooms for new living*”? *Period Rooms, interior design and home decoration from 1930s to 1950s USA*

Paper 9 – 11.45am-12.10pm: Laura Carter (University of Cambridge) *A hidden history of the Geffrye Museum’s period rooms, c.1935-1969*

12.10pm **Discussion/Questions**

12.25pm Lunch

1.15pm – **Sandpits/Workshops**: Perspectives on Museum Practice

Short Papers (10 mins) breakout sessions (in parallel)

1.15pm – 1.25pm – Deirdre Murphy/Lee Prosser (Historic Royal Palaces) *The King’s Presence Chamber, Kensington Palace - a 21st century reconsideration* – 1.25pm-1.50pm Discussion

1.15pm – 1.25pm – Jonathan Gration (De Montefort University) *The Virtual Period Room* – 1.25pm-1.50pm Discussion

1.15pm – 1.25pm – Godfrey Evans (National Museums Scotland) *The Dining Room at Hamilton Palace – a case study* – 1.25pm-1.50pm Discussion

1.15pm – 1.25pm – Jane Whittaker/Howard Coutts (Bowes Museum) *Deconstructing/Reconstructing the Period Rooms at The Bowes Museum* – 1.25pm-1.50pm Discussion

1.50pm – 2.45pm – **Roundtable Feedback/Discussion** (facilitated by Mark Westgarth, Jane Whittaker, Howard Coutts)

2.45pm - Close of 2nd Day

2.45pm - **Field Trip to Auckland Castle**

6.00pm – **Wine Reception at Auckland Castle**

Saturday 20th September

10.00am **Registration** (day 3) and Refreshments

10.10am - **Welcome** (Howard Coutts)

10.20am – **Fourth Session** – Deconstructing and Reconstructing (introduced by Jane Whittaker)

Paper 10 – 10.20am-10.45am: Ben Russell (Science Museum, London) *Do we want the dust? Redisplaying James Watt's workshop at the Science Museum*

Paper 11 – 10.45pm-11.10am: Mecka Baumeister (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York) *Revisiting and Reinstalling – a review of several period rooms at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: a conservator's perspective*

11.10am **Discussion/Questions**

11.20am Refreshments

11.45am – **Fifth Session** – Contemporary Narratives (introduced by Mark Westgarth)

Paper 12 – 11.55am-12.20pm: Maarten Liefoghe (Ghent University/Vrije Universiteit, Brussel) *Revisiting Giorgio Morandi's studio in the museum gallery and a casa: on the micro-politics of period room frame designs*

Paper 13 – 12.20pm- 12.45pm: Werner Hanak-Lettner (Jewish Museum, Vienna) *The Shabbat Room: the creation and reinterpretation of a period room*

Paper 14 – 12.45pm- 1.10pm: Victor Edman (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) *The return of the Period Room: contemporary installations and narrative strategies*

1.10pm **Discussion/Questions**

1.25pm Lunch

2.15pm - **Round Table Discussion**

3.00pm **Closing Observations** (Professor Helen Rees Leahy, Professor of Museology, University of Manchester)

3.40pm END of Conference