

Symposium

paintclubeast in collaboration with firstsite gallery.
To explore the idea of Commitment in Painting
Saturday 21st June 2014

Abstract

At the start of chapter 1 in Sartre's *What is Literature?* (1948,p.1), he opens with the following comment: "No, we do not want to 'commit' painting, sculpture, and music 'too', or at least not in the same way.[as writing] Anyway why would we want to?". Sartre's idea of the committed writer was a dominant and evocative account of intellectuals of the Left in the immediate post-war period, but was of course superseded with the arrival of 'theory' from Althusser onwards; with post-structuralist notions fully decentering the subject. However, with the advent of new narratives of protest, social networks and community-engagement, the 'social' in art has been very firmly put back into the spotlight. What does this mean for the painter? What is the 'commitment' of/to painting, as an aesthetic and/or ethical/political practice?

Bibliography

Sartre, Jean-Paul (1948) *What is Literature*, Librairie Gallimard.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Sunil Manghani – Reader in Critical and Cultural Theory at the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton.

Respondent: David Mabb - Artist based in London/ Reader in Art, Goldsmiths University.

Respondent: Dr Catherine Ferguson - Painter/ Lecturer School of Fine Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds.

Respondent: Jeffrey Dennis - Painter based in London/Teaches BA Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London.

Respondent: Emma Talbot - Painter/ Tutor on BA Fine Art University of the Arts, Central St. Martins.

Respondent: Ryan Mosley - Painter based in London & Sheffield, Shows with Alison Jacques, London.

Respondent: Rebecca Fortnum - Professor in Fine Art, Middlesex University.

Draft Programme:

Register 9.30 - 10.00

Welcome: Lecture Theatre 10.00 Dr Barbara Howey

Keynote Speaker: 10.15-11.00 Dr Sunil Manghani

Respondent: 11.00-11.30 David Mabb

Respondent: 11.30-12.00 Dr Catherine Ferguson

Respondent: 12.00-12.30 Ryan Mosley

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Respondent : 2.00-2.30 Professor Rebecca Fortnum

Respondent: 2.30-3.00 Jeffrey Dennis

Respondent: 3.00-3.30 Emma Talbot

Questions 3.30-4.00

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