

September 2015

Dear Newcastle,

I NEED YOUR HELP!!

*Midpointness* is an artistic project exploring potentiality inherent in a work of art. In fact it could be said to be addressing the actual 'work' of art, that is, what art *does*.

I am coming to The Lock-Up in Newcastle with an open mind and (quite deliberately) with no specific preconceptions about the development of this project. Consequently I am gratefully seeking contributions from the Newcastle arts community.

Working internationally as an artist/curator, I routinely invite contributions from other artists to become starting points in this on-going project. These contributions can be in the form of instructions, images-or indeed anything that contributing artists feel is appropriate.

I am also inviting contributions from you.

In the spirit of the upcoming symposium event *Next to Nothing* - which follows this project at The Lock-Up, I will be using deliberately low-fi strategies in order to engage with what I hope will become complex matters.

Key points in the development of the project include reading groups (where we can look at texts which might be helpful to begin a conversation), one-to-one meetings, and finally its 'realisation' as a public exhibition at The Lock-Up - 90 Hunter St Newcastle from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

**To register your interest please contact [sdutton@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:sdutton@lincoln.ac.uk) or come along to any of the workshop times listed below.**

#### WORKSHOP DETAILS

##### **FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

10AM-12PM Reading group and conversation: **Thoughts on performance.**

Text. Jan Verwoert. "Exhaustion and Exuberance: Ways to defy the pressure to perform" in *Tell me what you want, what you really, really want*. (Rotterdam: Pier Zwart Institute, William de Kooning Academy Rotterdam University and Sternberg Press, 2010), 13 - 41

2 - 4 PM Reading group and conversation: **Thoughts on why we make art.**

Text. Andrew Warstat. "Unteachable and Unlearnable: the ignorance of artists" in: *On not knowing; how artists think* ed. Elizabeth Fisher and Rebecca Fortnum. (London. Black Dog in association with Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge and supported by the University of the Arts London, 2013), 42-52

##### **SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

10AM -12PM Reading group and conversation: **Thoughts on "mid-pointness".**

Text. W.J. Mitchell "What do pictures want" in *What do pictures want: the lives and loves of images* (Chicago. The University of Chicago Press, 2005) p 28-56

2 - 4 PM Reading group and conversation: **Thoughts on framing Chaos.**

Text. Elizabeth Grosz "Chaos. Cosmos, Territory, Architecture Territory" in *Chaos, Territory, Art* ( New York, Columbia University Press, 2008 ) 1-24

**WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

11 - 3PM      Exhibition participation: **Developing a curatorial score.**

This session will develop from the conversations and is where we can begin to develop an outline/score for the 'exhibition'. Students and visitors who are interested in developing curatorial concepts may find this session helpful.

**Finally, the project *Midpointness* will be open to the public at The Lock-Up - 90 Hunter St Newcastle - from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2015.**

Once again, it would be wonderful to have you all involved!

Many thanks

Steve Dutton