

The Precarious University Workshop: Specters of the Art School

Following the acceleration of the twin processes of financialization and commodification of higher education invoked by the Browne Review (2010), *The Precarious University* produces critico-creative interventions into spaces of teaching, research, and artistic production/display where the antagonisms between public and private are contested and thus made manifest. These interventions open-up free and democratic educational spaces where contemporary filiations between institutional imperatives, government policy and pedagogic approaches can be examined in relation to radical historic praxis. We offer a model of pedagogy as both art and resistance and aim to produce points of informed rupture to set pedagogic/artistic convention in play.

For the NFAFE Annual Symposium and Exhibition 2017 we propose a participatory workshop entitled '*Specters of the Art School*' focused on the critical intervention of Art and Language (Michael Baldwin, Charles Harrison and Mel Ramsden). The group were pivotal in the rise of conceptual art in the 1960s and shaped pedagogic practice within art schools through their work at Coventry Polytechnic. The workshop will focus on hauntological readings of Art and Language texts and use these as a critical framework to examine the precarity of the contemporary institution of the art school.

Three respondents Andy Broadey, Richard Miles and Dave Griffiths will each select and critically respond to a text in relation to the contemporary Art School (we will also make the texts available to participants in advance of the workshop via our website (attackdotorg.com)). We will also invite participants to contribute towards and challenge positions we develop throughout the activity and as a result of the workshop we will aim to produce a co-authored text critically reading the contemporary art school in relation to the critical intervention of Art and Language.

The Precarious University is a collaboration between @.ac and Levenshulme Contemporary Arts Centre (lcac.org.uk). @.ac came into existence in response to the implementation of the fees regime and seeks to act as a critical response to the financialisation of art education and the reduction of pedagogy to a culture of excellence. They undertake a negative analysis of current HEIs and examine models and principles that might inform the reimagining of the art school. LCAC is a Manchester-based collective of artists & thinkers interested in the politics of social space. Both are elements of a vigorous debate around the future of higher education and the arts, and by collaborating hope to insert these debates into all the institutional settings necessary for the struggle to remain animated.

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