

NAFAE: Austerity, Adversity, Art? Fine Art education as a site of social and political resistance, initiative and engagement
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM FOR FINE ART EDUCATORS

ABSTRACT

Hysteria, Betrayal and Art

By Dr Catherine Maffioletti & Dr Chrysanthi Nigianni

Our presentation will explore hysteria, betrayal and performance art as part of our research for a symposium 'Hysteria Festival' that we are bringing together in 2018.

In the field of clinical knowledge, we might consider that the obsession for knowledge in science and psychoanalysis has betrayed the hysteric and removed them away from their own truth; the obsession of the clinician thus being intertwined with the hysteric's madness. The unconscious wants the truth - a truth that, however, escapes epistemic definitions.

We pose the question whether a disavowed betrayal continues to haunt the hysterical woman and more generally the psychoanalytic subject. We seek to find and draw together alternative ways of attending to hysteria, asking whether and if so why hysteria presses upon notions of *truth* and *justice*. What are the ways in which the experience of madness is betrayed in various institutional and creative settings?