

“The place where things happen for the second time”



An exhibition on the unspeakable complexities of remembering and forgetting

Featuring contributions by

Sandra Cardew
Catalina Esguerra
Andrew Krieger
Kate Levy
Martin Murray
Richard Raubolt
John Richardson
Ulysses Spencer
and others

4 April – 25 April 2015

Public Reception: Saturday 4 April, 7-9pm

Note that the reception will be preceded by a talk with psychologist Richard Raubolt at 5pm, see description below

Background

In this exhibition and discussion series, artists and thinkers from different disciplines will examine the psychological, ethical, and political dimensions of art's potential to invoke memories of the past. Touching on issues such as trauma, oral history, collective memory, nostalgia, and the almost forgotten, it aims to illustrate memory's unstable, manipulable and elusive qualities, alongside the immense power it exerts on us personally and collectively.

Discussion Series : Memory and the State of the City

In this series of discussions we will examine the relationship between memory and the state of Detroit from a psychological, historical and societal perspective.

Sat April 4, 5pm: psychologist and psychoanalyst **Richard Raubolt** will talk about his embryonic research into the relationship between psychic aphasia of “unknown” traumas and the physical environment of the city, as it plays out in the memory of current and former citizens of Detroit.

Weds April 15, 7pm: artist and documentarian **Kate Levy** will talk about her project to map the de-industrialization of Detroit through the history of industrial auctions from the 1950's onwards. The project has a personal dimension for Levy since her family built a significant global business as the predominant auction house in the city. She uses her project to examine the collective memory of de-industrialization alongside specific family memories.

Weds April 22, 7pm: sociologist **Martin Murray** will talk about the social construction and impact of collective memory, and the political, practical and ethical dimensions of dealing with the remembrance of a painful and unjust past. The discussion will use Martin's extensive research on "commemorating and forgetting" in post-apartheid South Africa as an analogy through which to approach contemporary issues in Detroit.

Biographies

Sandra Cardew began studies in visual arts in the 1980's after a debilitating illness ended a long career in theater as a dancer and choreographer. Her powerful and highly affecting work utilizes multiple mediums, theater-like maquettes, and concepts of anthropomorphism and the collective unconscious, to imbue her strange hybrid characters with an elusive, but haunting, mnemonic potential.

Catalina Esguerra is a doctoral candidate in Romance Languages and Literature at the University of Michigan, where she is also enrolled in the museum studies program. Her research looks at recent literary, cultural, and artistic practices in Colombia, and examines how they engage with the historical memory of violence in a country where the sociopolitical landscape has been characterized for decades by physical and psychological repression.

Andrew Krieger is a Detroit area artist whose highly sought-after work combines sculptural forms and evocative painted scenes to create dynamic diorama-inspired tableau. Through masterful control of image and paint application, his work thoughtfully and humorously investigates the seductive potential of nostalgia, while never losing sight of its power to manipulate.

Artist and documentarian Kate Levy uses extensive place-based research to explore issues of social justice through video, photography and artist books. Her projects have addressed water and gentrification issues in Detroit, the impact of the oil boom on North Dakota, and land ownership issues in Kenya. She has an MFA in Advanced Photography from ICP-Bard in New York.

Martin Murray is a professor of urban planning at the University of Michigan. He began his lengthy and distinguished academic career as sociologist with a strong foundation in urban geography. His current research engages the fields of urban studies and planning, global urbanism, cultural geography, distressed urbanism, development, historical sociology, and African studies. He is the author of numerous books including "Commemorating and Forgetting: Challenges for the New South Africa."

Dr. Richard Raubolt is a licensed psychologist who provides psychotherapy, psychoanalysis, and counseling for clients in Grand Rapids and throughout West Michigan. He specializes in treating depression, panic disorders, and trauma. His international teaching has led to appointments at the Portuguese Psychoanalytic Association and the Chinese American Psychoanalytic Association. He is the author of several books including *Theaters of Trauma*.

John Richardson is head of the department of art and art history at Wayne State University. His evocative sculptures question issues such as function, utility and consciousness through their use of meticulously crafted, but inexact, replicas of cast-off industrial fragments, found on regular walks around his studio in Hamtramck's south end.

Ulysses Spencer is a combat veteran and artist. He is an advocate for art as a way of articulating memories at the root of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a condition he personally endured for over 30 years before seeking treatment. He is currently a peer support specialist at the John D Dingell VA hospital in Detroit, where he works closely with the resident art therapist.