Radical Aesthetics—Radical Art

The symposium examines the intersections between art and aesthetics and between philosophical ideas and practices—particularly, their relationship to sensation, discourse, ethics, politics, activism, community, participation and collaboration. What are the possibilities for radical aesthetics and art practice that looks further than Deleuze’s sensation or Bourriaud’s relationalism and altermodernity, and goes beyond the faux radicalism of participation and collaboration. Does radical practice assume political activism or does it mean a reversal? Must a move toward activism exclude criticality or must art always refer to itself? What might ‘radical’ mean in an era often characterised by Slavoj Zizek and others as ‘post-political’? Or does the emergence of a ‘new politics’ (Hardt and Negri, Badiou’s ‘metapolitics’ etc.) suggest the potential for new forms of radical political practices and ideas? What might aesthetics mean post-postmodernity? Rancière seeks an approach that is indisciplinary, one of breaking disciplines that suggests practice of intervention. Adopting the key term here as ‘intervene’, to what effect does intervention operate in a radical aesthetic? Does a radical aesthetic interrelate with other spheres or might it even be indistinguishable from other spheres?

Speakers include: Gary Anderson, Esther Leslie, Stewart Martin, Mark Titchner

Wednesday 17 February 10.30 – 5.00 pm

This symposium is a free event but there will be a small lunch fee. It will take place at Loughborough University. It is essential to book in advance, more details on application.

Radical Aesthetics is organised by the Politicised Practice Research Group at Loughborough University School of Art & Design. Contacts: Jane Tormey: J.Tormey@lboro.ac.uk and Gillian Whiteley: G.Whiteley@lboro.ac.uk