

Berkshire ARTS

WHAT ARE WE MADE OF?

Explore creativity and place in Berkshire

Guest Speaker, Richard Wentworth

Wednesday 19 November 2008, Reading Town Hall, 6 – 9 pm

CALL FOR BERKSHIRE VOICES



"The puzzle of how we know about things beyond our immediate realm is often through hearsay or even a sense of where to look for things. We learn to think of people who are the right people to approach which specific questions. We may even enjoy the nervous speculation of whether they will give us the right answers. As part of our ambition to unearth all sorts of unseen activities across the county of Berkshire we thought it would be good if it had some element of the chain letter where people could as they say 'put us on to someone else'. We would like people to nominate and propose other people whose artistic and creative activity they find interesting. The area can be as broad as you like across all media, self-taught, educated, but most importantly it should be energetic and vivacious. It can be intensely collaborative, extremely private, pursued out of simple curiosity, or commercial imperative. Like all digging, the most important thing is not to worry what you might unearth but rather enjoy the sheer variety of things that can be discovered. Archaeologists call their territory 'made-ground', and after that it's all geology. Get nattering, get digging!" (Richard Wentworth)

What are we made of? is a new cultural event profiling the importance of creative practice in Berkshire. The 2008 event considers the relationship between creativity and place and is organised by arts consultant Louise O'Reilly (www.lorva.co.uk) on behalf of the Berkshire Arts Partnership¹ with guest speaker Richard Wentworth (www.lissongallery.com). The event is supported by Arts Council England, South East.

¹ The Berkshire Local Authority Arts Partnership is a joint initiative by the arts and culture departments of the six Borough Councils in Berkshire.

Richard Wentworth is a chronicler of daily life. Since the 1970s he has played a leading role in British sculpture, isolating both the formal and sculptural qualities of everyday objects. His enormous archive of photographs *Making do and getting by* (1974 onwards) captures the provisional ways in which people modify the world they inhabit. As a child he had two strong Berkshire episodes both involving education and both associated with what he now realises would be called the 'years after the war'.

Wentworth has exhibited and lectured internationally for 30 years. Recent projects include *An Area of Outstanding Unnatural Beauty*, Kings Cross, London (2002), *Glad that things don't talk*, Irish Museum of Contemporary Art, Dublin (2003), *Global Cities*, Tate Modern, London (2007) and *Clouds are Events, Shadows are History*, Beijing (2008) organised by the Red Mansion Foundation as part of the Chinese government festival of exhibitions associated with the Olympics. He is Director of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford University and is represented by the Lisson Gallery, London.

We are seeking three creative voices from Berkshire to join Richard Wentworth and present their view of what they (and Berkshire) are made of. Richard will speak for 25 minutes followed by Berkshire speakers for up to 10 minutes each. The event will be chaired by Louise O'Reilly and followed by a drinks reception. It is free and tickets must be reserved in advance from the Reading Arts box office.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Every person or organisation that is nominated will be profiled in some way by the event. The process of inviting nominations for potential participants is an experiment and a research exercise. It will uncover some of the creative activity within Berkshire at this time. It will provide a one-off, idiosyncratic creative map of the county. The more nominations received the more interesting the map will be.

The three nominees selected to speak at the event will be paid a fee of £150 plus travel expenses and will be profiled within the formal publicity for the event. Support will be provided to any selected nominee who is unaccustomed to public presentation if they request it.

The choice of Berkshire speakers will be made by Richard Wentworth and Louise O'Reilly with advice from the Berkshire Arts Partnership. Selection will be made on the basis of presenting a delightful, diverse, thought provoking and compelling range of activity and perspectives.

NOMINATION PROCESS

To make a nomination please complete the attached form and post or email it to **Louise O'Reilly, Top Floor, 100 de Beauvoir Road, London, N1 4EN, louise@lorva.co.uk**. Nominations can be sent at any time up to 5.00 pm on **Monday 8 September 2008** but the earlier the better. It gives us more time to find out about you.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Creative? Confused? Curious? Concerned? Don't like filling out forms? Call or email Louise on 07710 784704 or louise@lorva.co.uk.

Thank you – we look forward to hearing from you ...

Berkshire ARTS

WHAT ARE WE MADE OF?

Explore creativity and place in Berkshire

Guest Speaker, Richard Wentworth

Wednesday 19 November 2008, Reading Town Hall, 6 – 9 pm

NOMINATIONS FOR BERKSHIRE SPEAKERS

1 NOMINATOR DETAILS

Name

Address

Email

Phone

2 NOMINEE DETAILS

Name

Address

Email

Phone

3 REASONS FOR NOMINATION

In not more than 200 words explain why you are nominating this person / organisation. What do they do? Why are you inspired by them? What difference does it make to Berkshire that they are here?

4 SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Please provide one example of work by this person/organisation to support this nomination. It may be an exhibition, a poem, a performance, a website, a voluntary activity ...

SIGNED BY

Nominator..... Nominee.....

Please return to **Louise O'Reilly, Top Floor, 100 de Beauvoir Road, London, N1 4EN**
or Louise@lorva.co.uk by 5.00 pm on Monday 8 September 2008. **THANK YOU!**