

Interdisciplinary Study Series on the historicity of materials and the work of the British School at Rome (BSR)

All about Concrete: *from the Pantheon to the Present*

Venue: University of Liverpool in London, 33 Finsbury Square, EC2A 1AG

Date: Monday 12 November 2018, 9.30am – 6.00pm

Introduction: The second in the BSR's series of interdisciplinary research study days will explore Concrete – a material that is at once ancient and contemporary. It is the outcome of collaboration between the BSR's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters, and the University of Liverpool in London.

Background: *The BSR was founded in 1901 and received its first Royal Charter in June 1912. It is a centre of interdisciplinary research excellence in the Mediterranean, supporting the full range of arts, humanities and social sciences. The BSR is an environment for work of international standing and impact from Britain and the Commonwealth, and a bridge into the intellectual and cultural heart of Rome and Italy. This one-day research study event is designed to exploit the very particular kinds of collaboration the BSR has fostered into exploring particular materials from a number of different perspectives. It will be led by scholars, architects and artists associated with the British School at Rome in collaboration with guest academics and other practitioners.*

The objective is to enhance the knowledge of every participant and inspire new connected ways of thinking about a particular material—concrete—in historical, technological and aesthetic contexts.

The event will comprise a series of presentations on the use of concrete over two millennia; case studies will highlight the extreme versatility, strength and plasticity of the material. Participants will appraise its use in specific case studies and discuss each one from the different perspectives of experts brought together by the British School at Rome. Concrete's unique formal qualities as an architectural material will be contrasted with its use in visual arts in the casting process and the creation of sculpture. The term 'concrete' is also explored in a paper on Concrete Poetry.

Concrete: 'Is it Stone? Yes and No. Plaster? Yes and No. Brick or Tile? Yes and No. Is it Cast Iron? Yes and No

Frank Lloyd Wright

PROGRAMME

Introduction

Stephen Milner, Director of the BSR 9.35 – 9.45

Keynote

Alan Powers, Architectural Historian 9.45 – 10.25

Questions 10.25 – 10.30

--Coffee break-- 10.30 – 11.00

Panel session 11.00 – 12.00

Janet DeLaine, Archaeologist

Concrete structures in ancient Roman architecture

Joseph Rykwert, Architectural Historian

Renaissance 'rediscovery' of Roman concrete techniques

Richard Murphy, Architect

Carlo Scarpa

Questions 12.00 – 12.15

--Lunch break-- 12.15 – 1.00

STUDY VISIT TO THE BARBICAN 1.15 (for 1.30 start) – 2.45

Led by **Catherine Croft**, Director of the C20 Society, **Dave King**, Architect and Barbican resident, and **Vicky Richardson**, Architecture Curator/Critic

--Tea (at Finsbury Square)-- 3.15 – 3.30

Afternoon presentations

Florian Roithmayr, Artist 3.30 – 3.50

Presentation/discussion over concrete sculpture

Helene Binet, Photographer and **Marco Iuliano**, Architect 3.55 – 4.20

Concrete and Architectural Photography

Jo Melvin, Art Historian

Concrete Poetry: process of production in contemporary practice 4.25 – 4.45

Poem by **Pele Cox** read by **Vivien Lovell** 4.45 – 5.00

Reading from **JG Ballard** '*Concrete Island*' 5.00 – 5.10

Concluding Remarks and Thanks

Eric Parry, Architect 5.15 – 5.45

Stephen Milner and **Vivien Lovell** 5.45 – 6.00

This event is generously sponsored by **The Concrete Centre** and is hosted by the **University of Liverpool in London**.

***The Concrete Centre** provides material, design and construction guidance. Its aim is to enable all those involved in the design, use and performance of concrete to realise the potential of the material. The Concrete Centre provides published guidance, seminars, courses, online resources and industry research to the design community.*

***University of Liverpool in London** is the first non-London based Russell Group university to open a campus in London. It is a centre for excellence, in the heart of the city's financial district, offering innovative, professionally-focussed postgraduate teaching*