



# *Creative Writing and Art History: From the Fictional to the Biographical*

**Saturday 21 June 2008**

**10.00am – 6.15pm**, (with registration from 9.30am)

**Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House,  
Strand, London WC2R 0RN**

This one-day symposium considers the variety of ways in which the writing of art history intersects with creative writing, including novels, biographies and experimental approaches to the subject of both art and the artist. Held as part of the Writing Art History Seminar, this symposium intends to foster discussion about the different ways in which art history and creative writing have been combined. Focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the papers will cover a wide range of periods and topics.

The morning session will focus on the relationship of creative writing to art history, with Adrian Rifkin considering what it is that creative writing might do for art history, whilst Carol Mavor uses the fairytale as a way of weaving together stories about boyhood and art, circling around the letter 'O'. The afternoon focuses on biography in relation to art history, with papers considering the fictions that are created by artists and historians in the construction of biographies, and the impact of the biographical on art histories. The papers will include Elisabeth Eger's investigation into the creative uses of both portraiture and biography by eighteenth-century intellectual women, following on from her recent exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery: *Brilliant Women: 18th-century Bluestockings*. The symposium will conclude with a round-table, inviting the audience to contribute to the discussions developed over the course of the day.

For more details on the Research Forum's Writing Art History series, please see <http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/projects/writingarthistory/index.shtml>

**Open to all, free admission; please book a place in advance**

Please make a booking by **Wednesday 18 June**. Email [ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk) or call 020 7848 2785 and state that you wish to book for the 'Creative Writing and Art History' conference.

## PROGRAMME

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 9.30 - 10.00  | Registration  |
| 10.00 – 10.15 | Welcome   |
| 10.15 - 11.00 | Adrian Rifkin ( Goldsmiths College, London): <i>Figuring the Ground, or the Affair of Truth and Invention</i>   |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | COFFEE/TEA BREAK  |
| 11.30 – 12-15 | Carol Mavor (University of Manchester): <i>Knitting Sugar: The Story of a Mother Whose Son Would Not Eat</i>  |
| 12.15 – 13.00 | Gavin Parkinson (Courtauld Institute of Art): <i>'The Marquise went out at Five o'clock'</i>  |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | BREAK FOR LUNCH   |
| 14.00 – 14.45 | Stephanie Porras (Courtauld Institute of Art): <i>Writing Bruegel: Art History as a Fictive Ethnography</i>   |
| 14.45- 15.30  | Jeremy Melius (University of Berkeley, California): <i>Making People Up in the Culture of Connoisseurship</i>   |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | COFFEE/TEA BREAK  |
| 16.00 – 16.45 | Elizabeth Eger (King's College, London): <i>Bluestocking Portraits: Image, Life, Text</i>   |
| 16.45 – 17.30 | Tom Gretton (University College London): <i>Voicing Choruses, Collectivizing Agents, Fiction and Biography in an Art History without Artists' Names</i> |
| 17.30 – 18.15 | Roundtable Discussion   |
| 18.15         | RECEPTION   |