COURTAULD INSTITUTE
RESEARCH FORUM

Sculpture & Touch

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2008

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

Pilgrims' handprint worn into the central sculpted column of the *Pórtico de la Gloria*, Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Photo: Peter Dent

> 'Marble comes doubly alive for me then, as I ponder, comparing, / Seeing with vision that feels, feeling with fingers that see'. (Goethe, *Roman Elegies*)

Since the Renaissance, at least, the medium of sculpture has been linked explicitly to the sense of touch. Sculptors, philosophers and art historians have all related the two, often in strikingly different ways. In spite of this long running interest in touch and tactility, in recent decades vision and visuality have tended to dominate art historical research.

This symposium aims to introduce a new impetus to the discussion of the relationship between touch and sculpture by setting up a dialogue between art historians and individuals with fresh insights working in disciplines beyond art history. The programme reflects this ambition by bringing together an international and truly diverse set of speakers who will tackle subjects ranging from prehistoric figurines to the work of contemporary artists, from pre-modern ideas about the physiology of touch to tactile interaction in the museum environment, and from the phenomenology of touch in recent philosophy to the experimental findings of scientific study.

To book a place: £35 (£15 students and Courtauld staff). Please send a cheque made payable to 'Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Co-ordinator & Administrator, Courtauld Institute of Art Research Forum, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, clearly stating that you wish to book for the '*Sculpture & Touch* conference'. For credit card bookings call 020 7848 2785/2909. For further information, send an e-mail to ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk

Organised by Peter Dent

PROGRAMME

Friday 16 May

9.30 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 11.30	**SESSION 1** – Chair: Michael Paraskos (Cyprus College of Art)
	Geraldine Johnson (History of Art Department, University of Oxford): *A Taxonomy of Touch: Tactile Encounters in Renaissance Italy*
	Charles Spence (Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford): *Making Sense of Touch*
	Andrew Benjamin (Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Monash University, Australia): *Endless Touching: Herder and Sculpture*
11.30 - 12.00	COFFEE/TEA
12.00 - 13.30	**SESSION 2** – Chair: Geraldine Johnson (University of Oxford)
	Michael Paraskos (Director of Programmes, Cyprus College of Art): *Bringing into Being: Vivifying Sculpture Through Touch*
	James Hall (independent art historian): *Michelangelo and the Cult of the Left Hand*
	Toby Juliff (School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, University of Leeds): *Untouched Sound: Ventriloquism and the 'Touch' of Sculpture*
13.30 - 14.30	BREAK FOR LUNCH
14.30 - 16.00	**SESSION 3** – Chair: Fiona Candlin (Birkbeck College)
	Francesca Bacci, (Centro Interdipartmentale Mente e Cervello, Università di Trento, Italy): *Either Touch or Look: When One Sense is Better than Two*
	Carmen Windsor (Philosophy, University of Reading): *Proprioception and the Aesthetic Appreciation of Sculpture*
	Arie Hartog (Curator, Gerhard-Marks-Haus, Bremen, Germany): *Look as if You Touch*
16.00 – 16.30	COFFEE/TEA
16.30 – 18.00	**SESSION 4** – Chair: Francesca Bacci (Università di Trento)
	Julia Cassim (Helen Hamlyn Centre, Royal College of Art): *Touch and the Non-Visual Imagination - Case Studies from the Japanese Museum Experience*
	Rosalyn Driscoll (contemporary artist, USA): *Crossing Boundaries of Self, Time and Space*
	Fiona Candlin (Birkbeck College, University of London): *Licit and Illicit Touching in the Museum*

Saturday 17 May

9.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 11.30	**SESSION 5** – Chair: Lee Beard (Courtauld Institute of Art)
	Robert Hopkins (Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield): *Sculpture and Perspective*
	Claude Heath (contemporary artist, UK): *Islands of Clarity: Drawing Sculpture with a Blindfold*
	Sebastiano Barassi (Curator of Collections, Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge): *The Sculptor as a 'Blindman': Constantin Brancusi's 'Sculpture for the Blind'*
11.30 – 12.00	COFFEE/TEA
12.00 – 13.30	**SESSION 6** – Chair: Peter Dent (Courtauld Institute of Art)
	Linda Ann Nolan (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte, Rome): *Popular Devotion at St. Peter's Basilica: The Bronze St. Peter, Pope Paul V and Urban VIII*
	Caterina Y. Pierre (Department of Art, City University of New York at Kingsborough Community College): *The Pleasure and Piety of Touch in Aimé-Jules Dalou's 'Tomb of Victor Noir'*
	Michael Petry (contemporary artist, UK and Curator, Royal Academy Schools Gallery): *U TOUCH ME: The Body Transposed*
13.30 – 14.30	LUNCH
14.30 – 16.00	**SESSION 7** – François Quiviger (Warburg Institute)
	Hagi Kenaan (Department of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University, Israel): *Narcissus' Touch: Sculpture and the Phenomenology of the Body*
	Alison Wright (Department of History of Art, University College London): *'Toccare il vero'? Playing on Touch in 15th-century Florentine Sculpture and the Case of Desiderio*
	Shir Aloni (Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London): *'Textures of Memory': Touch and Remembrance in the Works of Mona Hatoum, Doris Salcedo, and Anne Wilson*
16.00 – 16.30	COFFEE/TEA
16.30 – 17.30	**SESSION 8** – Chair: Peter Dent (Courtauld Institute of Art)
	Douglass Bailey (School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University): *Small Things in the Hand: Miniaturism, Figurines and Body-objects*
	Anne Cranny-Francis (Department of Critical and Cultural Studies, Macquarie University, Australia): *Touching Bodies: Ron Mueck's Exploration of (Sensory) Being*
17.30 – 18.00	Concluding Remarks

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