

Programme for PMSA Gallery Talks 2010

Alan Baxter Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
All talks take place between 1800 and 21.00

Tuesday 5 October

Benedict Read

'Public Statues to Public Art - via Statuemanía'

Public sculpture has been with us since Antiquity, at least. But its forms and functions have varied over the ages. This lecture will look at this history in brief, but will include a closer look at how 19th century Britain pioneered the proliferation of public statues that constitutes 'statuemanía' and will examine how this may have prepared the way for the 'public art' of the 20th century.

Ben Read has just retired from the School of Fine Art at Leeds University where he was at one time Director of Sculpture Studies. He has taught, lectured and published widely on Aspects of British 19th and 20th Century Art.

Tuesday 12 October

Catherine Moriarty

'Connecting histories of public sculpture in Melbourne and London'

The public monuments of London and Melbourne are linked in ways that are little known. This talk explores the work of Paul Raphael Montford (1868-1938) who undertook major commissions in both cities and through whose work new connections between sculptures on different sides of the world might be re-established. Based on several years research into Montford's letters from Australia, a new map outlining the extent of British sculpture's reach in the inter-war years can now be drawn.

Catherine Moriarty is Principal Research Fellow in the Faculty of Arts, University of Brighton. She was awarded the University of Melbourne Macgeorge Fellowship in 2008.

Tuesday 19 October

Jolyon Drury

'Alfred Drury. R.A. 1856-1944. The man, his work and his place in "The New Sculpture" movement'

Alfred Drury is perhaps best known for his monument to Sir Joshua Reynolds in the forecourt of Burlington House (The Royal Academy of Arts) in London. But his lively reliefs surround the War Office in Whitehall and the West entrance to the V & A, larger than life monuments to Queen Victoria stretch from Bradford to Wellington, New Zealand, not to mention many moving war memorials, the sexy lamp standards

in City Square in Leeds and the sculptures of some very pretty girls so popular in his generation.

Alfred Drury R.A. 1856-1944, was brought up educated in Oxford before being accepted by the National Art Training School in South Kensington in 1875 (later to become The Royal College of Art). There Drury demonstrated a precocious aptitude for modelling in clay, instructed by another natural modeller, the exiled French sculptor Aimé Jules Dalou.

Drury won three gold, three silver and two bronze medals for his modelling skills. Early in 1880 Dalou returned to Paris having won the competition for the monument "*The Triumph of the Republic*" and his amnesty. Drury was invited to join Dalou in Paris in 1881, working on the vast monument in clay, 22m long, 8m wide, 12m high and on the equally ground-breaking relief "*Mirabeau répond a Dreux-Brezé*".

Alfred Drury became a very successful and popular sculptor: he was soon in great demand for the busts of public figures, war memorials as well as producing much sought-after editions in bronze such as "Innocence" and "Griselda". He was made full RA in 1913. His purpose-designed studio "Lancaster Lodge" on Wimbledon Common was a meeting place for many Royal Academicians, and he collaborated with many well-known architects of the era producing bas reliefs on a number of important buildings.

Jolyon Drury, his grandson, will give an illustrated talk about "The Governor", his family and his work.

Tuesday 26 October

Garry McBride Chairman, Evans Concrete Products Ltd.

Garry McBride, Chairman of bespoke precast concrete specialist Evans Concrete Products Ltd., will be speaking about their work, focusing on a number of their most prestigious schemes.

Garry and his team were commended at the 2009 Marsh Awards for Excellence in Public Sculpture for their work on the construction of *Dream*, a 22m high precast concrete sculpture of a girl's head that stands on the site of the former Sutton Manor colliery in St.Helens. The work by Catalan sculptor, Jaume Plensa, was cast using a Spanish Dolomite mix to give it a glowing white finish. Plensa was the winner of the 2009 Marsh Award. *Dream* was commissioned by St.Helens Council as part of The Big Art Project, an ambitious public art initiative from Channel 4 supported by Arts Council England and The Art Fund.

The construction of *Dream* was a substantive feat of engineering by Evans Concrete and the piece also won the Creativity in Concrete Award by British Precast in 2009. The iconic sculpture is a permanent showcase to Evans' skills and traditions and probably represents the finest achievement in the company's history. Garry will talk about the design and building of *Dream* and some of the other high profile projects

that his company have been involved with. More information about the sculpture can be found at: <http://www.dreamsthelens.com/>

Evans provides a complete design, manufacture and installation service to clients and operates nationwide from its central location in the Midlands. The company works across a variety of industry sectors including public buildings, education, transport, sport & leisure and environmental on such projects as building facades, public art schemes, landscaping and sea defences.