

IRISH MODERNISMS: SEMINAR 3 | GLOBAL CONTEXTS LATIN AMERICA

SPEAKERS: DR HARPER MONTGOMERY, JORGE GONZÁLEZ
DISCUSSION MODERATER: DR KATHRYN MILLIGAN

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021, 1PM



CCA DERRY~
LONDONDERRY

IRISH MODERNISMS: SEMINAR 3

12:45pm

Waiting room opens

1pm

Welcome from Irish Modernisms
Co-curators Catherine Hemelryk &
Matt Retallick

1:10pm

Dr Harper Montgomery:
Latin American Modernisms: Craft and
the Spaces of Contemporary Art

1:30pm

Jorge González:
Escuela de Oficios

1:50pm

Screen break

2pm

Discussion facilitated by
Dr Kathryn Milligan

2:30pm

Close

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for our series of seminars exploring Irish Modernisms and their Global Contexts.

This seminar season is on the occasion of Irish Modernisms, an exhibition by five artists from NI who are inspired by, respond to and collectively highlight the complex and nuanced influence of Modernism in the north. You can find out more at CCADLD.org.

Each lunchtime seminar pairs speakers with a passion about an aspect of Modernism to give a glimpse into the wealth of research and sheer breadth of the influence Modernism has had across the globe.

We continue our series by leaving the island of Ireland and bringing our attention across the Atlantic to perspectives on Modernism and Latin America. We are delighted to be joined by Dr Harper Montgomery and artist Jorge González who are sharing their interests and practices with us today.

The final two seminars feature speakers from Estonia considering the Post Soviet and Baltic perspectives and finally in East Africa with speakers from Eritrea as well as seeing archives from previous talks at CCADLD.org.

In the mean time, we hope you enjoy this seminar as much as we will!

Catherine & Matt
Irish Modernisms Curators

IRISH MODERNISMS | GLOBAL CONTEXTS

LATIN AMERICA

Dr Harper Montgomery | Latin American Modernisms: Craft and the Spaces of Contemporary Art

Dr Harper Montgomery's current project concerns craft and contemporary artists who are engaging with craft-politics in Latin America in ways that relate directly with modernism. She will be speaking about her research on a museum founded in 1979 in Asunción, Paraguay called the Museo del Barro (The Museum of Clay) and its history as an artist-founded and run institution that has reframed discourses around artesanía and contemporary art.

Harper is an accomplished author having published key works on Modernism; her extensive research has spanned the eras from 1920s and 1980s and has examined connections between historical and present day practices in Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, and Argentina. Her research and writing aims to introduce unorthodox Modernisms to art historical narratives in order to decenter and multiply their plot lines.

Jorge González | Escuela de Oficios

Jorge González will be speaking about Escuela de Oficios project, a collective work platform that underlies his practice, as a symbolic space focused on the creation of mutual learning spaces as critical articulations in awareness of natural resources, labour, and knowledge.

For today's Irish Modernism talk, he will be sharing on exhibition proposals and Escuela de Oficios' iterations that inform his latest project, which contributed to Protocinema's multi-city group exhibition "A Few in Many Places", a site-specific installation in his studio and itinerant program entitled *Bateyes del Chibal*. Walls of locally harvested and woven plant fibers act as backdrop to a wooden altar in the shape of a pyramid that results from engaging with syncretic traditions and indigenous ceremonies to the land. Under this light, a solstice procession was celebrated for the communal sharing of a collective *Sol-Suaty* weave as a symbol of union, resistance, and cultural exchange.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS & FACILITATOR

Dr Harper Montgomery teaches art history at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She is the author of *The Mobility of Modernism: Art and Criticism in 1920s Latin America* (University of Texas Press, 2017), which won the Arvey Foundation Book Award for distinguished scholarship on Latin American Art, and co-editor of *Beyond the Aesthetic and the Anti-Aesthetic* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2013). Her current research had been supported by a senior Dedalus Fellowship and concerns the ascent of artesanía within contemporary art spaces in Latin America from the 1970s to the late 1980s.

Jorge González is an artist based in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Jorge González's practice can be described as long-term theoretical-practical research on production models that consider Boriké's pre-colonial and popular knowledge. It is commonly a collective practice, which involves mutual learning processes that derive approaches to understand the relationships between the indigenous

and the modern, between the industrial and the manual, between the amateur and the teacher. This multiform process is a continuous exchange that proposes a slowed rate of work, contrary to the flows of contemporary capital.

In 2014, he started Escuela de Oficios project, a collective work platform that underlies his practice, in response to dominant historical omissions and deteriorating academic spaces. By proposing a recovery of knowledge and spaces through community regeneration, Escuela de Oficios creates collective learning and promotes self-directed education. embajadada.com/JorgeGonzalez1

Dr Katy Milligan is an art historian specialising in nineteenth and twentieth century Irish art. Following her PhD studies Katy was the inaugural ESB Fellow at the ESB Centre for the Study of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland, and an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD. Her first monograph, *Painting Dublin, 1886 - 1949: Visualising a changing city*, was published by Manchester University Press in 2020. katymilligan.com

Catherine Hemelryk FRSA was born in Rugby and has been Director at the CCA Derry~Londonderry since 2018. She has previously been Curator at CAC Vilnius, Artistic Director at NN, Northampton. Catherine studied Fine Art at Newcastle University and MA Curating Contemporary Art at Royal College of Art, London. She is a guest lecturer, commissioner and has been guest curator and in residence across Europe including GeoAIR Tbilisi, Sea Foundation Tillburg and Wysing Arts Centre. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Matt Retallick is a curator based in Liverpool. He is an Irish citizen, and runs the Instagram @modernist.ie, an archive of everyday Irish design modernism. He is an honorary lifetime member of The Modernist Society, and is studying for an art history PhD at Manchester School of Art. Matt is Associate Curator of PINK, Manchester. @matt_retallick

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Irish Modernisms Seminars series has been made possible via by a bursary award from the British Art Network (BAN). BAN is a Subject Specialist Network supported by Tate and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, with additional public funding provided by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The Network promotes curatorial research, practice and theory in the field of British Art. Its members include curators, academics, artist-researchers, conservators, producers and programmers at all stages of their professional lives. Contact britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk for details on how to join.

Irish Modernisms is supported by Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Derry City & Strabane District Council, Art Fund and Freelands Foundation. Catherine & Matt would like to thank the artists and speakers as well as Jessica Jukes, Martin Myrone, Danielle Goulé, Laura McCafferty, Fiona Allen and Mel Bradley.

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Cover image: View of Jorge González' studio for the altar of Bateyes del Chibal, an installation and program for the Puerto Rico chapter for *A Few In Many Places*, curated by Mari Spirito and Abhijan Toto, in collaboration with Embajada, Protocinema, 2021. Image courtesy of Raquel Pérez-Puig and Embajada.

