

For & Against: Art, Politics and the Pamphlet 26 & 27 May 2017

Pamphlets may turn on points of ethics or theology but they always have a clear political implication. A pamphlet may be written either for or against somebody or something, but in essence it is always a protest.

— George Orwell (1948) in *British Pamphleteers Volume 1, from the sixteenth century to the French Revolution*.

For Orwell, the pamphlet is a polemical provocation. Throughout the 20th century, artists have worked and acted provocatively and polemically with text, images and performance, publishing writings and producing pamphlets and manifestos. The last decade has seen art's increasing engagement with political and social issues, and a preoccupation with revolutionary movements and global politics.

For & Against: Art, Politics and the Pamphlet is a two day event of symposium, performances, presentation, exhibition and the production of a series of new pamphlets. This project is a collaboration between Radar and the RadicalAesthetics-RadicalArt (RaRa) project which was initiated in 2009 at Loughborough University under the auspices of the Politicized Practice Research Group by Dr Jane Tormey and Dr Gillian Whiteley.

Protest and dissent, as demonstrated in performative and visual polemical forms are typified by the tradition of the pamphlet. The pamphlet thereby provides a means to examine possibilities for advocacy, protest and prefiguration shared by different disciplinary fields. The format and traditions of the 'radical pamphlet' provides an alternative platform for artistic intervention and provocation: a focus for contemporary art's turn to politics using the pamphlet as a model.

For & Against: Art, Politics and the Pamphlet responds to research about the political pamphlet and will share both a rich history as well as demonstrate the relevance of the pamphlet to contemporary art practice. The symposium programme responds to the idea, format, aesthetic, relevance and purpose of the pamphlet: it will include papers concerned with histories of the political pamphlet and its development in art practice and performative presentations in the form of 'rants' or manifestos.



Research Symposium

Friday 26 May
11am–5pm
Fearon Hall
Rectory Rd,
Loughborough LE11 1PL
£5 (includes lunch)

This event includes presentation, performances and rants. Artist-taxi-driver, Mark McGowan provides a keynote presentation and is followed by offerings from Ruth Beale, Tim Brennan, Dean Brannagan, Shirley Cameron, Ben Campkin, Chiara Dellerba, Andrea Gibson, Joanne Lee, radical reThink, Rebecca Ross, Miffy Ryan, Evelyn Silver, Jane Tormey, Mo White, Gillian Whiteley and Andrew Wilson.

Booking:
www.arts.lboro.ac.uk/radar



Exhibition

For & Against!
The Art of the Pamphlet
Exhibition Opening:
Friday 26 May, 6–7.30pm
27 May–24 June
Open daily
(Mon–Sat, 10am–4.30pm)
Charnwood Museum,
Loughborough
FREE entry

The political tradition of the pamphlet goes back centuries. The radical, simple format and DIY approach of the pamphlet, has been of long-standing significance for artists, providing alternative platforms for intervention and provocation.

Focusing on the pamphlet as form of material culture, this exhibition curated by Gillian Whiteley will explore the local, private and public collections of pamphlets, their visual rhetoric, materiality, reproducibility and the ways in which they lend themselves to topicality.



Pamphlet Day!

Saturday 27 May
11am–3pm
Various town centre
locations

This day-long event takes place across sites including Charnwood Museum, Loughborough Library, Queens Park and the town's Market Place. It will involve live performative elements by artists commissioned by Radar and a 'market' of stalls where public participation in the making of new pamphlets, zines and protest paraphernalia is actively encouraged. Join us!

Also a set of interactive stalls with offerings by Michelle Oldale and Ruth Coward, exploring the political aspects of body size and weight stigma through spoken word, art and other creative media; Joanne Lee/Pam Flett Press & dust ask 'What is to be done?' and invite you to share your ideas about local issues from ways of merely coping, to suggestions for better understanding of the problems and possibilities, via practical proposals and positive social actions; Chiara Dellerba sets up a space where collaboration is cooperation and an act of protest; and collective Kühle Wampe set about to share their recent activist artistic activity...

The Fertile Ground

Saturday 27 May
Time and location
to be announced nearer
the time

Rory Pilgrim will challenge and collapse the binary 'For and Against', exploring complex gradients of the in-between. Working with Reba Maybury, writer and founder of the radical interdependent publishing house 'Wet Satin Press', they will attempt to engage with others to explore interdependence and ways in which current technology may aid and hinder us. Choreography, speech and music are used to explore ways in which bodies and voices can come together to find new, urgent, alternatives of action. Rory will also create and distribute a new pamphlet series made available on the day.

"Luxury Communism Now! Or We Break the Machines"

Saturday 27 May
Installation in Queen's
Park bandstand, Granby
Street LE11 3DU
11am–3pm

For his Radar commission, Patrick Goddard is devising a new work inspired by Loughborough's close historical connection to the story of the Luddites. A sound work will be installed into Queen's Park's iconic bandstand throughout Pamphlet Day! Patrick will also create and distribute a new pamphlet series about technology, nostalgia and the future, made available on the day.



GBP Camouflage

Saturday 27 May
Queen's Park, Granby
Street LE11 3DU
11am–3pm

Artist Ferenc Gróf has devised *GBP Camouflage*, using the colours and dimensions of British banknotes and military camouflage. This project represents the range of controlled territories, just as the convertibility of a national currency represents the economic spread of a state. *GBP Camouflage* questions geopolitical axioms, in the form of an unlimited, easily printed, edition series.

The project also involves a specially created "currency symbol" alphabet where each of the twenty six letters, from the English alphabet, are replaced with a corresponding currency sign. This writing system is used for a series of posters concerning military-economical issues which will be available on the day.

Protest Zine-Making Event

Saturday 27 May
Loughborough Library
Granby Street LE11 3DU
11am–3pm

Little Riot Press is an independent, artist run, free press established by Phil Eastwood and Chris Dunne as part of an on-going international 'culture jamming' experiment. Their work occupies public spaces with the intention of making through creative collaborations that lead to politically focused publications, exhibitions, blogs, tweets and situations.

Join them and their mobile print resource for a drop-in workshop and make your own handmade, limited edition publication.

Off Message

Saturday 27 May
Queen's Park, Granby
Street LE11 3DU
11am–3pm

Artist Ciara Phillips invites you to join her in Queen's Park for an afternoon of printing and editing wearable slogans. Phillips, whose work often includes borrowed and adapted slogans, will set up a simple stencilling and screenprinting workshop where you can consider the For & Against of her propositions, and adapt or create your own dead on, or right off message.

Miss B's Pop-up Political Hair Salon

Saturday 27 May
Mubu Hair Salon, 8 Ashby
Square Loughborough
LE11 5AA
11am–3pm

Join Ruth Beale for a cut and a conversation. As your hair is cut by a professional hairdresser, artist Ruth Beale will delve in to her personal pamphlet collection and connect your interests with past struggles and radical ideas.

Special 'For & Against' haircuts are priced at £10. To book please contact Mubu Hair Salon: 01509 237797 (50% of profits are being donated to Baca: a charity which provides specialist supported accommodation and training for young forced migrants).

Free in the market

Saturday 27 May
Loughborough Market
Place LE11 3EA
11am–3pm

The FREEE art collective will bring their specially designed 'social kiosk' for opinion and join Loughborough's regular market day. Peruse their public art pamphlet manifestos, agree or disagree with their slogans, or create your own and turn it in to a badge to stand by your words.



Stall Call Out

If you're a group with political motivations, an interest in pamphlets or have your own and would like to run a stall for the day, please contact us: luarts@lboro.ac.uk

