



Written by Teresa Stoppani
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PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

Tue 28 October 2008, 5.30pm

Hilary Powell
OLYMPIC INTERVENTIONS: CREATIVE AND CRITICAL
RESPONSES TO THE LONDON 2012 DEVELOPMENT



The changing East End area surrounding the Olympic Park is prompting a variety of responses from creative practitioners operating alongside the beginnings of official Cultural Olympiad programming. In 2007 Hilary Powell made the film 'The Games' staging a surreal Olympics amid the contested and varied sites set to become the 2012 Park. She is continuing this engagement with the area through the project 'Pudding Mill River: Purveyors of Sporting Spirits and Foodstuffs' – a company set up to gather the last wild harvests (from rosehips to sloes) of the Olympic fringe-lands, combining food, debate, theatre, film and rural pursuits as a means of initiating engagement with and exploration of this area in transition. This involved a recent collaboration with public works on the SPACE commissioned Wick Curiosity Shop for the Hackney Wick Festival and Hilary also runs a network hosting regular forums for those engaging with the changing area - building an active archive of interventions, events and responses in an attempt to create a more heterogeneous vision of this site of large-scale regeneration – a vision she will present in this lecture.

Speaker: Hilary Powell is a Hackney based artist whose interdisciplinary practice is consistently engaged with the changing urban environment. She studied Fine Art at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University before heading off to Prague and Amsterdam to develop her installation/ performance practice in the city within an MA Scenography. She has made theatrical installations in derelict sites across Europe from a car ballet/concert on Amsterdam Docklands to projects in Berlin factories and empty London Lidos and has a PhD in Cultural Studies from Goldsmith's College where she extended this investigation and debate around eventful practices within the urban landscape. She is partner with Dan Edelstyn in the film company Optimistic Productions with previous broadcast commissions including a series of C4 3 minute wonders called 'Subverting the City' and they continue to develop their interdisciplinary collaboration pushing the boundaries of their creative practices and use of media further – from costume and set design/installation to multimedia production, music and guerrilla choreography.

www.optimisticproductions.co.uk

puddingmillriver.blogspot.com

www.wickcuriosityshop.net

University of Greenwich School of Architecture & Construction
Norbert Singer Lecture Theatre (M055)
Mansion Site, Avery Hill Campus
Bexley Road, Eltham, London SE9 2PQ
Tuesdays 17.30

Directions to Avery Hill Campus

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