



Barcelona Kaleidoscope

Visual arts, literature, theatre and cinema in the Catalan capital

British Library, Conference Centre, Eliot & Dickens Rooms

Friday 27 February 2015

17:00 – 20.00

'Barcelona Kaleidoscope' opens a window on to Barcelona as a world city of culture. Three speakers will present views of the city's rich cultural landscape, its visual and performing arts, cinema and the history that has shaped it.

17:00 Welcome

Geoff West, European Studies, the British Library.

Helena Buffery, University College Cork (Chair).

17:15 **Andrew Dempsey (Independent curator)**

Stepping over Miró

17:45 **Josep Anton Fernández (UOC, Barcelona)**

The City of Conflict

18:15 Refreshment break

18:30 **Maria M. Delgado (QMUL)**

Performing Barcelona: cultural tourism, geography and identity

19:15 Questions and discussion

20:00 End



SUMMARIES

ANDREW DEMPSEY

Stepping over Miró

This illustrated talk will take the form of a walk in the streets and squares of Barcelona looking at some monuments and works of art, mostly recent but some much earlier. It touches on design, urbanism and architecture as well as art. Some general reference is made to museums in Barcelona, especially to Barcelona's newest museum, the Museu del Disseny de Barcelona on the Plaça de les Glòries Catalanes.

JOSEP-ANTON FERNÁNDEZ

The City of Conflict

Barcelona is, among other things, a literary construction. The representations of Barcelona in Catalan literature throughout the 20th century bear a close relation to the discourses on national identity that Catalan authors were so instrumental in creating. Barcelona thus became an icon of progress and optimism, the vibrant image of a successful project of social and cultural modernisation in Southern Europe. But in the texts of Catalan authors, Barcelona is also the scene of social, national, cultural, generational, and psychic conflict – a conflict that today signifies the end of the so-called "Barcelona model" of the 1980s and 1990s, the city of tourism and property speculation. This talk will give an overview of how Catalan literature has represented Barcelona, with reference to major authors such as Joan Maragall, Josep Maria de Sagarra, Mercè Rodoreda, Terenci Moix, and Montserrat Roig, but also recent writers like Marta Rojals and Daniel O'Hara.

MARIA M. DELGADO

Performing Barcelona: cultural tourism, geography and identity

In a city whose identity has been so marked by architectural innovation, and where theatricality is perceived to form such a conspicuous part of everyday life, it is perhaps not surprising that the iconography of Barcelona is bound up with performance. Examining key companies whose work is lauded in the global marketplace, the importance of refashioned theatrical spaces, and the move towards a dramaturgy more concerned with the city's concrete history and inhabitants, this paper shows the modes in which 'Barcelona' as a material and imagined entity is performed across a range of theatrical and filmic texts.



PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Dempsey is an independent curator and exhibition organiser. He has curated exhibitions for the Miró Foundation in Barcelona, IVAM in Valencia, the Museo de Bellas Artes in Bilbao and La Caixa in Madrid as well as exhibitions of Chillida for the Hayward Gallery in London and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. He was formerly responsible for the exhibition programme at the Hayward Gallery where he initiated and organised the *Homage to Barcelona* exhibition in 1986.

Josep-Anton Fernàndez is Senior Lecturer in Catalan Studies at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Barcelona), where he is the academic director of the MA in Catalan Studies. Until 2006 he was Senior Lecturer in Catalan at Queen Mary, University of London, where he founded and directed the Centre for Catalan Studies. His research focuses on 20th-century Catalan literature and culture, gender and sexuality, and issues of identity and representation. He is the author of *El malestar en la cultura catalana: La cultura de la normalització 1976-1999* (2008) and *Another Country: Sexuality and Identity in Catalan National Gay Fiction* (2000), and has published numerous essays on contemporary literature and culture, film, and television.

Maria M. Delgado is Professor of Theatre and Screen Arts at Queen Mary University of London. She has published widely in the areas of twentieth-century Spanish- and Catalan-language theatre, film and performance. Her books include *Federico García Lorca* (Routledge 2008) and *'Other' Spanish Theatres* (MUP, 2003) and ten co-edited volumes. She won the Premi Joan B. Cendrós in 2008 for an issue of *Contemporary Theatre Review* titled 'Catalan Theatre 1975-2006: Politics, Identity and Performance', Her curatorial work in film includes the programming of Spanish- and Catalan-language cinema for the London Film Festival.

Helena Buffery is Head of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies in University College Cork. Her teaching and research interests in Catalan Studies focus mainly on translation and on theatre and performance studies. Publications include: *Shakespeare in Catalan: Translating Imperialism* (2007) and, with Carlota Caulfield, *Barcelona: Visual Culture, Space and Power* (2012).



'Barcelona Kaleidoscope' is organised by ACLAIR (Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources) and the Institut Ramon Llull (Catalan Language and Culture) in collaboration with the British Library.



LLLL institut
ramon llull
Catalan Language and Culture

ACLAIR is the Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources. As well as providing information about relevant library materials in its subject area, ACLAIR regularly collaborates with institutions and cultural organisations to promote Latin American and Iberian studies across a range of fields.

The Institut Ramon Llull (IRL) is a public entity funded by the Catalan Government and the Barcelona City Council with the primary aim of promoting Catalan Language and Culture abroad. In addition to its Barcelona headquarters, the IRL has four offices abroad in the cities of London, New York, Paris and Berlin.