

Surrealism, Science Fiction and Comics



10.00am – 7.00pm, Saturday 22 January 2011 (with registration from 9.30)

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art
Somerset House, Strand, London WC2



Ticket/entry details: £15 (£10 concessions and Courtauld staff and students), includes coffee, and reception. Please send a cheque made payable to 'Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Coordinator, The Courtauld Institute of Art Research Forum, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, clearly stating that you wish to book for the 'Surrealism, Science Fiction and Comics'. For credit card bookings call 020 7848 2785. For further information, send an email to ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk

In his 1976 essay *Science Fiction and Allied Literature*, David Ketterer wrote 'it is rather surprising that the considerable affinity which exists between Surrealism and SF has not attracted more attention.' This observation was repeated in 1997 by Roger Bozzetto and Arthur B. Evans, who lamented that the relations between Surrealism and science fiction 'continue to be largely unexplored in SF scholarship,' and that 'there currently exists no in-depth study of SF and Surrealism.' As well as examining the points of contact and the differences and antagonisms that lie between Surrealism and science fiction, this conference is concerned with the related literature of comics, admired and exploited by Surrealists from the 1940s, and influenced in turn by the imagery, themes and styles of Surrealism and its art.

Papers will examine the reception of Surrealist imagery and ideas by SF and comics from the 1950s; analyse the nature of the relationship between Surrealism and SF; look at comics as a means towards challenging some of the deeply held beliefs of the Surrealists; and illuminate the Surrealists' own attraction to early comics and their uses of the comic format after the Second World War up to the 1980s.

Organised by Dr Gavin Parkinson (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

PROGRAMME

- 09.30 – 10.00 Registration
- 10.00 – 10.30 Welcome and Introduction by Gavin Parkinson (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)
- 10.30 – 11.00 Barnaby Dicker (Royal Holloway, University of London, and University of Wales, Newport): *André Breton, Rodolphe Töpffer, and the Automatic Message*
- 11.00 – 11.30 Dan Smith (Chelsea College of Art and Design, London): *Critical Surrealism in Nemesis the Warlock*
- 11.30 -12.00 Pawel Frelik (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland): *Cosmic Jerrybuilders and Other Renegades: The Uneasy Relationship of Surrealism and Science Fiction*
- 12.00 – 12.30 Discussion
- 12.30 – 13.30 BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)
- 13.30 – 14.00 Paul Gravett (Comica Festival): *Rarebit Fiends, Bizarros and Fat Furies: How American Comic Strips and Comic Books Relate to Surrealism and Science Fiction*
- 14.00 – 14.30 Joanna Pawlik (University of Manchester): *The Comic Book Conditions of Chicago Surrealism*
- 14.30 – 15.00 Bryan Talbot (graphic novelist): *Grandville and the Anthropomorphic Tradition*
- 15.00 – 15.30 Discussion
- 15.30 – 16.00 COFFEE/TEA BREAK (tea-coffee provided)
- 16.00 – 16.30 David Brittain (MIRIAD, Manchester Metropolitan University): *JG Ballard and Eduardo Paolozzi: Analysing the Media Landscape*
- 16.30 – 17.00 Jeannette Baxter (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge): *Extreme Surrealisms in the Work of Alan Burns*
- 17.00 – 17.15 Discussion
- 17.15 – 17.30 SHORT BREAK (refreshments provided)
- 17.30 – 18.00 Robert McNab (Documentary Filmmaker and independent scholar): *Pablo Picasso – Every Dog has His Day: André Breton and Benjamin Péret's Comic Strip Meant to Expose the Painter's Lifelong Opportunism*
- 18.00 – 18.30 Roger Sabin (Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts, London): *Wokker: Notes on a Surrealist Comic Strip*
- 18.30 – 19.00 Discussion
- 19.00 RECEPTION