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BRITISH SCHOOL
AT ROME

presents

On the Meaning of 'Gossip'

with Maeve Brennan, Catriona Gallagher, Holly Graham, Helena Hladilová, Sharon Kelly, Lulù Nuti and Marie-Agnès Nobecourt, Lucy Tarquinio, Laura White

31 May – 23 June

British School at Rome
via Antonio Gramsci 61
00197 Rome

In her book "Witch, witch-hunting and women" (2020), Silvia Federici traces the genealogy of the word 'gossip'.

The meaning of this word became derogatory in Europe only in the 16th century, with the advent of capitalism and the intention of destroying the close-knit female community that existed at the time and that could oppose the new dominant social classes. Gossip today means informal discourse, often harmful to those affected by it, and is irrevocably linked to females or feminized subjectivities. These people gossip, having nothing better to do. Yet, as Federici says: "In many parts of the world, women have historically been seen as the weavers of memory - those who keep alive the voices of the past and the histories of the communities, who transmit them to the future generations and, in so doing, create a collective identity and profound sense of cohesion. They are also those who hand down acquired knowledges and wisdoms - concerning medical remedies, the problems of the heart, and the understanding of human behaviour".

Federici is not the only philosopher addressing the meaning of the word gossip. In transfeminist theory and practice, this term has often provided opportunities for reflection and revision of historical narrative structures, those that seem so consistent as to be immutable, and towards which there is an attempt of deconstruction through personal experiences.

Based on these premises, the exhibition aims to investigate the different forms of transmitting and receiving wisdom that the invited artists carry out in their research and that go beyond the norms of knowledge. Be it oral archives, metamorphosis of matter or collaborative practices, the artists focus on their position in the world through the works displayed.

The artistic practice of **Maeve Brennan** (London, UK) explores the political and historical resonance of material and place. She develops long-term investigations led by personal encounters, often drawing on forms of expertise that encompass a material practice - geologists, archaeologists, conservationists - with a particular focus on repair. Working across moving image, installation, sculpture and printed matter, her works excavate layered histories, revealing the unseen or hidden structures that determine our lived environment. Her ongoing body of work *The Goods* (2018 - present) traces the underground networks that facilitate the looting, smuggling and trade of cultural heritage.

<http://www.maevebrennan.co.uk/>

@maevekrbrennan

Catriona Gallagher (UK/IE) is a visual artist and filmmaker working between Northumberland, UK and Athens, Greece. Her work probes at the collision of manmade and natural worlds, navigating overlooked details in our physical surroundings and their mirroring psychological landscapes. She uses moving image, drawing, writing, and research processes to map physical and conceptual traces of human and non-human relations. Gallagher is a founding member of A – DASH project space and studios, where she worked between 2016-19. Her work has been exhibited in the UK, Ireland, Italy, Greece and France and her films have premiered at Ann Arbor, Laterale, New Holland Island, Sheffield Doc Fest, Aesthetica, Ribalta, and London Short film festivals. Recently, her work has been supported by Arts Council England and Visual Arts in Rural Communities, UK, and Creative Ireland and Roscommon Arts Centre, Ireland.

<http://catrionagallagher.com/>

@catrigallagher

Holly Graham (London, UK) is an artist whose work looks at ways in which memory and narrative shape collective histories. Graham holds a BFA from Oxford University and an MA in Printmaking from the Royal College of Art. Recent solo projects include commissions with: Up Projects & Barnet Council (2023); TACO!, London (2021-23); Skelf, Online (2022); Robert Young Antiques, London (2021); Gaada, Shetland (2020); Goldsmiths CCA, Online (2020); and Southwark Park Galleries, London (2020). Graham is an Associate Lecturer at the Royal College of Art, London; and is Co-Founder of Cypher BILLBOARD, London.

www.hollygraham.co.uk

@hollycagraham

Helena Hladilová (Kroměříž, CZ, lives and works in Tuscany, IT) studied Fine Arts at the University of Brno (Czech Republic), at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan and the Academy of Fine Arts of Carrara. In 2018 she co-funded GUM Studio, an artist-run space. Hladilová exhibited in important international and national institutions and galleries, such as: almanac Inn, Turin (2021), Kleine Humboldt Galerie, Berlin (2018), Osmicka, Humpolec (2018), SVIT, Prague (2017), L'ascensore, Palermo (2017), Treti Galaxy, Milan (2017), Polansky Gallery, Prague (2017), Centro per l'arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato (2017), American Academy, Rome (2016), National Gallery, Prague (2016), MaXXI, Rome (2015), Fanta Spazio, Milan (2015), MaCRO, Rome (2014), GaM, Turin (2013), Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice (2012), Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como (2012), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2012). She took part in the 6° Biennial of Prague (2013) and at Go West! - III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art at the Muzeon Art Park in Moscow (2012).

@helenahladilova

Sharon Kelly (NI) lives and works between her studio in QSS, Belfast and South Armagh, Northern Ireland. She gained a Master's in Fine Art from the University of Ulster in 1989. Kelly's practice takes the intersections between art, life, health, and sport, and explores ideas resilience and of the synergy between mind and body. Her work encompasses a variety of media including drawing, installation, sculpture and moving image. In 2022 Kelly worked with women Boxers in Dublin's north inner city, exploring ideas around resilience and the specific challenges faced by women in boxing. In 2022 she was the recipient of The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, USA and in 2020 she commenced a 6-month Arts Council of Northern Ireland Fellowship at The British School at Rome, which was interrupted by Covid, and which she finally completed in March 2023. She has been the recipient of numerous Visual Arts Awards from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, most recently the Artists' International Development Fund to participate in a printmaking residency at Frans Masereel Centrum, Belgium in late summer 2023.

www.sharonkellyartist.com

@sharonkellyartist

Lulù Nuti (IT/FR) lives between Rome and Paris.

Nuti obtained her diploma at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris in 2012. Since then she exhibited in Italy and abroad. Expanding from sculpture and installation to drawing, Lulù Nuti's practice is based on a strong belief in the intelligence of matter, in its power of being a vehicle for sensitive information, which go beyond the limits of words and language. Her work depicts the feeling of responsibility and powerlessness that are engendered by the age we live in and affect human beings. She experiments with various construction materials, creating sculptures and installations that dialogue with space.

For the occasion of this exhibition, the artist worked with her mother Marie-Agnès Nobecourt.

<http://www.lulunuti.com/>

@lulunuti

Lucy Tarquinio (Brooklyn, New York, USA) graduated with a BFA in 2021 from the Cooper Union and currently holds the Abbey Scholarship 2022-23 at the British School at Rome. Her paintings are built up in an arduous layering process and engage with subjectivity, mood, and care. She deals with the process of image making through histories of abstraction and formalism in the medium of oil painting.

@lucytarquinio

Laura White (London, UK) graduated in 1990 with a BA in Fine Art: Sculpture from the Loughborough University School of Art and Design and in 2004 with an MA in Fine Art from the Goldsmith College in London. She is currently a reader in Fine Art at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her practice is interdisciplinary, focusing on process and how objects/things come into being, with an emphasis on the handling of materials, from stable material such as ceramics and concrete to the changeable matter of clay, bread dough, silicone rubber and rusting metal. Recent exhibitions include: *Rome, a portrait. Festival of Foreign Academies and Cultural Institutes* (Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, 2023); *Pollute Volute, Laura White* (HS Projects, London, 2022); *Skewed Logic* (Coleman Projects, London, 2021); *MASS* (Saatchi Gallery, London, 2021); *The Clever Girl Painter* (Tintype, London, 2019); *The Precious Clay: Porcelain in Contemporary Art* (Museum of Royal Worcester, 2018-19); *As Much About Forgetting* (Viborg Kunsthall, Denmark, 2018); *Double agents and great refusers* (The Agency Gallery, London, 2017).

<https://www.laura-white.co.uk/>

<http://www.tenderfoot.co.uk>

@laurawhite2

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Opening hours: from Monday to Friday, from 3 to 7 pm

Closed: 2 June

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