



MICHAEL HANNA
SHORT FILMS ABOUT LEARNING

Talk: 5 July 2018, 6.30 pm

Period of residence for the project: 2-16 July 2018

Gluck50, in collaboration with MAC Belfast, presents Michael Hanna (1979; he lives and works in Belfast) with an event titled *Short Films about Learning*, which marks the start of the residence project.

During the evening, the artist's work will be presented through the screening of three videos (*Short Films about Learning* of 2015. Duration: 9 minutes; *Behaviour Setting* of 2013. Duration: 4 minutes; *Predictable Contact* of 2017. Duration: 13 minutes) and a preview of the work he will undertake in Milan. The artist will talk with curators Hugh Mulholland and Manuela Pacella who will examine both the reasons for choosing Hanna for the residence at Gluck50 and some specifics of his work in the context of the Northern Irish scene.

Short Films about Learning is the title of a video work that Hanna created in 2015 in response to the invitation by Belfast Exposed to create a dialogue with the photographic material in the archive. Belfast Exposed is an institution founded in 1983 by a group of amateur photographers with the aim of documenting the Northern Irish conflict from a local point of view, and holds over half a million photographic images. The video produced by Hanna is part of a series of commissions that have seen the participation of artists such as Duncan Campbell, Redmond Entwistle and Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin.

In *Short Films about Learning*, Michael Hanna establishes a dialogue – through a verbal-visual editing – with a selection of photographs from the archive and the voice of Paul Bloom, a professor at Yale University, taken from a series of lectures entitled *Introduction to Psychology*, freely accessible on the *Academic Earth* online platform.

The work well summarises the artist's interest in the study of thought and behaviour in relation to social, architectural and urban structures, drawing attention to areas, both real (defensive architecture) and virtual (the Adspaces), that have become standardised.

Examples of defensive architecture and the creation of Adspaces will be the subject of research and analysis during the artist's residence in Milan. Specifically, the project on Adspaces will be effected in collaboration with Dan Webster, a PhD student at the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University in Belfast, and a 100-metre *targeting bubble* will be used around the Gluck50 site as a place of study and interrelation between geographic and online space.



Michael Hanna (born in 1979) lives and works in Belfast. He completed a BA in Sculpture at Edinburgh College of Art in 2009 and MFA at the University of Ulster in 2012. He is co-founder of the artist-run organisation AMINI (Artists' Moving Image Northern Ireland).

Hanna has exhibited in the UK and internationally including *Rencontres Internationales* at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin and *Multiplicity* at NURTUREart, New York. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: *Frame Forward: Rather Life*, Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival, 2018; *Single Channel*, Anthology Film Archive, New York, 2018; *Short Films about Learning*, Lismore Castle Arts, 2017; *Predictable Contact*, Naughton Gallery, Belfast (2017); *CYFEST 10*, Taiga Arts Centre, St. Petersburg, 2016.

Hugh Mulholland (born in 1966) is Senior Curator at the MAC, Belfast. He was previously Director of The Third Space gallery in Belfast (2006-2012) and Director of Ormeau Baths Gallery in Belfast (1997-2006), and was founding Director of Context Gallery (now CCA) in Derry (1992-1997).

Mulholland has also worked as an independent curator and was Commissioner of Northern Ireland's first presentation at the Venice Biennale in 2005 with a group exhibition titled *The Nature of Things*, he also curated Northern Ireland's following exhibition at the Biennale in 2007 with a solo show of work by Willie Doherty. He was also curator for Kilkenny Arts Festival in 2006 & 2007 as well as curating exhibitions internationally in Berlin, Istanbul and Italy.

He has held the position of Senior Curator at the MAC since 2012, during this time he has curated major exhibitions with artists Kara Walker, Peter Doig, Stuart Brisley, David Hockney, Gilbert & George, Lindsay Seers and Cheng Ran.

Manuela Pacella (born in 1977) is a freelance curator and art critic based in Rome. After having completed her degree with a monographic dissertation on David Tremlett at "La Sapienza" University of Rome, she specialized in the History of Contemporary Art at the University of Siena. As art historian and researcher, she has worked both for public institutions such as the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea and the Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica and for private galleries. Following the exhibition curated in Belfast in 2012, *Patria Interiore*, she started to develop an interest in the history and art of Northern Ireland thanks to being selected in 2013 for the ICI's Curatorial Intensive at the CCA in Derry and for the International Residency at Flax Art studios in Belfast.

As a guest curator she organised the *Lost in Narration. Riccardo Giacconi, Invernomuto, Luca Trevisani* exhibition at the MAC in Belfast and co-curated the second Curatorial Directions at the MAC, focusing on the importance of text, narration, and story-telling in relation to the curatorial process with workshops and talks in Belfast and Milan.

Between 2015 and 2016 she was Editorial Researcher and Coordinator at NERO (Rome).

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