Arc of Fire

Seminar
Mhairi Sutherland

12 – 4pm Friday 7 May
Fort Dunree, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Contributions by speakers significant in the areas of contemporary archaeology, cultural geography, the formation of ‘place’ and connections with contemporary arts practice. A discussion of cultural interpretations and approaches to conflicted spaces, border landscapes and the aftermath of warfare will be the subject of the presentations and discussion.

Attendance at the seminar is free of charge and includes light lunch and coffee, however places are limited and should be booked in advance by contacting: mhairisutherland@eircom.net

Arc of Fire Exhibition
Mhairi Sutherland

You are invited to attend Arc of Fire exhibition opening on Friday 7 May, 7 – 9pm.

10 May – 17 May 2010
Fort Dunree, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Arc of Fire is hosted in Fort Dunree, Buncrana, Inishowen peninsula, Co. Donegal. The exhibition is a site-specific work installed in a military accommodation block of a former WW1 British Army base, retained after Independence in 1922, partly operational until the early 1990’s and now part a regenerated cultural and community resource. The conceptual framework of the seminar and the geographical location extends to proximity to the border with Northern Ireland, a result of which has been a long established interdependent relationship between North and South, the urban centre of Derry/Londonderry and the rural hinterland of the Inishowen peninsula.

Louise Purbrick is Principal Lecturer in the History of Art and Design at the University of Brighton, UK and is currently Visiting Scholar at Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster. Purbrick is an editor of Contested Spaces: Cultural Representations and the Histories of Conflict (2007) a global study of sites of conflict, places of loss, fear, resistance and pilgrimage where the materiality of violence forcibly brings the past into the present.

Bryony Reid is a researcher and writer with interests in ideas of place, identity and belonging across the disciplines of cultural geography, feminisms and visual art theory. She has a degree in fine art, an MA in cultural studies and her PhD is entitled ‘Labouring Towards the Space to Belong: Imagining Place in Northern Ireland’. Reid has published papers exploring the significance of place in cultural geography and visual art journals.

John Schofield is a historical archaeologist with an interest in the relationship between conflict archaeology and contemporary art as interpretations of the world around us. Recent publications include Aftermath: Readings in the Archaeology of Contemporary Conflict, for Springer (2009) In July, John takes up a new appointment as Director of Cultural Heritage Management at the University of York.

Mhairi Sutherland is a visual artist based in the north west of Ireland. Originally from Scotland, Sutherland has completed a Masters Degree in Fine Art from University of Ulster, Belfast in 1996. She is currently undertaking an arts practice based PhD at the Dublin Institute of Technology, and is a researcher with the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media (Gradcam) Dublin.

Arc of Fire exhibition admission free, all welcome, is open on the following dates and times:

Opening times:
Monday – Friday 10.00am – 2.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 11.00am – 3.00pm

Credits
Photography
Mhairi Sutherland

Large Image: Coast Watching Service LOP no 80 Malin Head, Inishowen (2009)
Insert page 1: Donegal Corridor Flight (2009)
Back cover: Donee Forge shrine, Inishowen (2009)
Front cover: St Angelos airfield, Co Fermanagh (2009)

Video production
Jac Productions

Thanks to:
Joe O’Loughlin, Historian. Belleek for his knowledge and generosity in imparting
the local history of the Donegal Corridor.
David Magee, Manager, Board Members and staff, Fort Dunree
John and Terence Coyle of Jac Productions
Ciaran Porter Swilly Electrical

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The Arc of Fire exhibition and seminar are reflections on the research outcomes of an enquiry into the ‘visible and invisible’ archaeologies of conflict in the landscape, and how these may be contextualised and represented through visual arts practice. The artwork of video projection, photographic prints and audio installation has been created as a result of a live research period undertaken through the visual, archival and ephemeral markings of the geopolitical landscape of the former ‘Donegal Corridor’ 1941-1945 and elements of former militarisation in the Inishowen peninsula.