

Local Authority



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About the Book

A new book featuring European perspectives on commissioning public art. Research for the essays began at the Commissions+ International Symposium on Public Art 2012, organised by Fingal County Council.

Original participants at the symposium, Cécile Bourne-Farrell, Nils van Beek and María Mur Dean, were invited to return to the ideas recorded that day and reflect on how recent economic and political upheavals have affected the commissioning of public art nationally and internationally.

An accompanying critical and historical essay by Dave Beech unpacks the aspirations and expectations expressed through the ideas and practices of public art in Europe.

A foreword by Caroline Cowley outlines the strategies adopted by Fingal County Council's Public Art Programme to build common cause with groundbreaking producers and agencies. Daniel Jewesbury's Introduction interrogates what is at stake in the commissioning of public art, the risks and opportunities, and an afterword by Valerie Connor reviews the impetus for the publication.

Contributors

Professor Dave Beech (UK) is an artist and lecturer at Valand Academy, Gothenberg, Sweden, and founder member of the collective Freee. He has curated exhibitions and contributed to debates on participation and art's publics, in books such as *In Search of Art's New Publics* and *The Pedagogical Turn*. He is a founding editor of the journal *Art and the Public Sphere*.

Cécile Bourne-Farrell (France/Spain/UK) is an advisor and curator of *Nouveau Commanditaires* (New Patrons), an initiative of *Fondation de France* and *Francois Hers*. One of its primary missions is to redistribute received donations and bequests to tackle societal issues, which are otherwise seldom or badly tackled. Cécile is currently working in the department of War Studies at King's College towards the creation of a residency program and a curatorial project in 2016.

Nils van Beek (Netherlands) is a curator and founder of TAAK (formerly director of public arts agency SKOR). TAAK is an agency based in Amsterdam that develops art projects and educational programmes relating to social issues such as ecology, urbanisation, social design, and human rights.

María Mur Dean (Spain) is a public art producer with *consonni*, based in Bilbao. Using feminism as a roadmap, *consonni* expands curating, production, scheduling and editing in contemporary art practices to create the public sphere.

Editors and Commissioner

Dr Daniel Jewesbury is an artist and Lecturer in Film at the University of Ulster, Belfast. His research focus is on public space and the ideological uses of public art, the historiography of Northern Irish art, and experimental and documentary filmmaking.

Valerie Connor is a freelance curator and advisor, and lectures in photography at the Dublin Institute of Technology. She is a member of the Advisory Board of *PhotoIreland* and the Advisory Panel of the National Irish Visual Arts Library.

Caroline Cowley is Public Art Co-ordinator with Fingal Arts/Fingal County Council and has run the commissioning programmes and public art projects since 2005. The book has been commissioned by Fingal County Council.