**Overview of the day:**

- **9.30** Coffee
- **10** Andrea Phillips (Introduction)
- **10.15** Vermeir & Heiremans
- **11** Victoria Ivanova
- **11.50** Emily Rosamond
- **12.40** Andrea Phillips (Concluding remarks morning sessions)
  - **1 Lunch**
  - **2 Annelore Hofman**
  - **2.50** Luke Mason
- **3.40** Coffee
- **4 Louis Moreno**
- **4.50** Caroline Knowles
- **5.40** Andrea Phillips (Concluding remarks afternoon sessions)
  - **6 Visit to Pump House Gallery & Drinks**

**Artist Publication: A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box)**

Symposium presentations will be published in a limited edition artist publication, designed in close collaboration with Salome Schmuki. Apart from these contributions the publication will consist of the video script of AMP, and a series of archival documents on the origins of Battersea Park, from the Wandsworth Heritage Service and the London Metropolitan Archives.

Finally the publication will also include an annotated fold-out of the three-year performance of Art House Index which will serve as a score for a music improvisation session. Sound artist Justin Bennett who designed the soundscape for the exhibition and the film A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box), will join Cindy Castillo or Hampus Lindwall on church organ for this unique improvisation (TBC).

The artist publication will be presented on Saturday 15 December 2018.

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**A Modest Proposal (Symposium)**

JUBILEE and Pump House Gallery, in collaboration with the Royal College of Art (RCA), present a one-day symposium examining fundamental questions raised by the gallery’s current exhibition A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box) by Belgian artist duo Vermeir & Heiremans.

Where:
Royal College of Art, LYDIA AND MANFRED GORVY LECTURE THEATRE (Battersea Site)
When: Saturday 27 October 2018 from 9.30am to 6pm

**Introduction**

A Modest Proposal (in a Black Box) investigates how current modes of financialisation can be redirected towards a more equitable model. Financialising public art collections and/or museum real estate and/or their symbolic capital, the model suggests, can create a cycle of wealth that will also benefit the original stakeholders – the artists and art workers. This can produce streams of economic and social wealth, and create sustainable conditions and futures in which art can flourish as an ecology of practices.

An Initial Public Exhibition, from 3 October to 16 December 2018 in Pump House Gallery, introduces A Modest Proposal in an auspicious location. The gallery is located in Battersea Park, in a former Victorian industrial pump house which supplied water to its boating lake. Close to the park a huge real estate project is being developed, with Battersea Power Station as its most prestigious icon. Taking Pump House Gallery as a case study, Vermeir & Heiremans decided to consider the financialisation of the gallery’s primary asset: the building itself, a Grade II listed Victorian pump house. The artists question how the building can be true to its original design as a ‘pump house’, in this case harnessing all rising values that surround Pump House Gallery so as to become a power house for the whole art community.

**Symposium**

A Modest Proposal aims to benefit artists and art workers, but its implementation raises some fundamental questions: can values originating from public goods be claimed for the benefit of specific stakeholders, or should these funds be redistributed through a political process? Can these values be reinvested in the institutions for art and its producers, in line with the museum’s goals and tasks? Or should a parliamentary debate attribute these resources, making them available for healthcare, education or even military expenses etc. And what if ‘governing’ in this case means the development and promotion of certain types of financialisation that are beneficial for (foreign) elites and companies, yet pose risks or are detrimental for the wider community?

**Speakers’ Program**

Opening the symposium Andrea Phillips will introduce the day’s programme, after which Vermeir & Heiremans will briefly elaborate on AMP, a reference point for a debate starting from the specific fields of expertise of the invited speakers: urban geography, art, finance and law.

The morning sessions will focus on the relationship between art and finance, and the contemporary role of public museums and collections given an increased tendency to ‘industrialise’ driven by the global race for soft power between cities.

The afternoon sessions will address the influence of financialisation on urban processes and daily life. The ultimate question the symposium wishes to address is whether finance can be a useful tool to create a more equitable society.

Each participant will speak for about 35min. after which she/he will be joined by the moderator to go into a short Q&A (15min.), and open up to the audience.
Abstracts & Bio’s of the Speakers

The Nine Elms redevelopment project: a case study for London prime property developments

Annelore Hofman will speak about the historical shift in meaning of the property concept. She will use ideas and activities of the 17th Century, Russian and American revolutions, the role the arts in constituting. In light of these complexities, what might a theory of surveillance capitalism look like? How might artworks and other cultural artefacts try to make sense of the uncessional nature of the sensibility within this regime of accumulation – with its hyper-visible subjects and hyper-proprietory means for their interpretation?

Contemporary Art and Finance: what’s organisation got to do with it?

Victoria Ivanova will consider how the organisation of the contemporary art field and financialisation of art are interlinked. Referencing dyadic geopolitical dynamics, Ivanova will propose that the contemporary art field is an example of maladaptation and off-shoring, London has become the ideal ‘infrastructure’ for a generic financial machine-learning algorithm, seeking to infer gender from online users. 

1. MODERATOR: Louis Moreno will moderate the session.

2. Speaker: Victoria Ivanova

3. Speaker: Caroline Knowles

4. Speaker: Emily Rosamond

5. Speaker: Louis Moreno

Equity: the genealogy of a malleable concept, and how to rethink our assumptions

Like Mason will speak about the historical shift in meaning of the concept of equity within law, from equity as a principle of fairness, to equity as a stake in capital, elaborating on how equity’s flexibility can be exploited in new ways. Exploring sources of value that are less common to think of in conjunction with equity in its modern sense, we can consider how and whether ‘equity’ might be put to new and original uses. Because equity as a broad category of legal thought has always been seen as a creative use of parallel value and meaning, it offers a powerful alternative to apparently rigid economic and legal frameworks.

1. Speaker: Louis Moreno

2. Speaker: Annelore Hofman

3. Speaker: Caroline Knowles

4. Speaker: Emily Rosamond

5. Speaker: Louis Moreno

 infrastructures of Plutocratic London

Caroline Knowles will speak about the infrastructures of wealth. With this she refers to what’s ‘holds together the city’ so infrastructure in the broadest sense, including ‘bodies & wires’. With its expertise on taxes and off-shoring, London has become the ideal ‘infrastructure’ for a global wealthy elite that finds the city completely at its service. The manipulations of forms of participatory governance. Vermeir & Heiremans investigate the complex relationship between art, architecture and the economy in today’s globalised world. Having designated their own house an art gallery, they take advantage of this house ‘as artwork’ as a framing device to look into the role art play within the ever-growing entanglement of art, urban develop ment and governance. Vermeir & Heiremans presented their work on the city of Ghent between 2011 (Arnolfini, Bristol) and 2014 (City Kunsthal, Antwerp (2012); Extra City Kunsthal, Antwerp (2012); 7th Shanghai Biennale Biennial; Manifesta 9 (2012); 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013); Bronge Triennale (2013); Transmediale Berlin; Biennale of Curating and Art Practice Berlin & Paris (2017); The Atlantic Festival (2018); Pump House Gallery, London (2018)...

1. Speaker: Annelore Hofman

2. Speaker: Caroline Knowles

3. Speaker: Emily Rosamond

4. Speaker: Louis Moreno

5. Speaker: Andreea Philipp