



**University of
Sunderland**

Kippin, John, Wainwright, Chris and Wells, Liz (2012) Futureland Now.
[Show/Exhibition]

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Photographers, curators and historians explore contemporary photographic practices and the post-industrial sublime.

Venue: Laing Art Gallery, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AG

The aesthetic traditions of British landscape and place are complexly remixed in contemporary visual cultures, from the pastoral vision of a green and pleasant land through to the darkly sublime satanic mills of the industrial revolution evoked in Danny Boyle's Olympic opening ceremony. Taking our cue from such contemporary articulations, this symposium will consider how recent photographers negotiate the aesthetics and politics of place. How do photographers respond to the dramatic refocusing of Western economies in the past three decades, from manufacturing and extraction to service industries? In considering different local and global contexts, we will explore photographic landscapes where past histories haunt present experience and future possibilities, and where the (post-) industrial is variously visualised.

Our symposium will look both forwards and backwards, surveying some of the territories of new photographic landscapes that have emerged since the late 1970s, and addressing the challenges facing photographers today. Different archaeologies of practice, place and history will be discussed, with presentations from leading practitioners, curators and academics.

Symposium organised in partnership with the North East Photography Network, University of Sunderland, University of Plymouth and University of the Arts, London.

The symposium has been organised to coincide with the exhibition **Futureland Now: reflections on the post-industrial landscape**, featuring the photographic and lens-based work of John Kippin and Chris Wainwright at the Laing Art Gallery until 20th January 2013.

Programme

Friday 16 November, Laing Art Gallery (Function Room)

- 5.30 Optional viewing, Futureland Now exhibition
- 6.00 Registration and refreshments
- 6:15 Welcome by Chair, **Carol McKay**
- 6:30 **John Kippin** and **Chris Wainwright** in conversation with **David Chandler**.
- 7:30 Questions and discussion
- 8:00 Close
- 8.30 Buffet at The Northern Charter Studios (delegates only)

Saturday 17 November, Laing Art Gallery (Function Room)

- 9.30 Arrival and registration
- 9.45 Introduction by Chair, **Dr Carol McKay**
- 10.00 **Dr Eugénie Shinkle**, University of Westminster
A Retrospective Overview: Landscape practices as critical subject matter
- 10.45 **Professor Mike Crang**, Durham University
'Geographies now' a contemporary look at the cultural geographies of the North East region
- 11.30 *Refreshments*
- 11.45 **Professor Liz Wells**, Plymouth University
Topographies of a Post-Industrial Sublime
- 12:30 **John Kippin**, **Chris Wainwright** and exhibition curator **Liz Wells** will conduct a gallery tour of the 'Futureland Now' exhibition.
- 1.15 *Lunch (provided)*
- 2:00 **Martin Newth**, University of the Arts, London
Some aesthetic strategies, landscape and its sublimation.
- 2.45 *Refreshments*
- 3.00 **Professor Jem Southam**, Plymouth University
The Coast of Cumbria
- 3.45 **Round table discussion** including all the day's contributors and invited audience questions. Chaired by Dr Carol McKay.
- 4.45 CLOSE