

KS07 Kurt Schwitters International Autumn School Conference

Day 0 - Thursday 27th September (The Conservative Club, Church St., Ambleside)

MERZ-SIP: pre-conference evening with Schwitters in the pub in Ambleside

An evening devoted to Schwitters' poetry, with performances by guest artists.

7.30 pm start (The Conservative Club, Church Street, Ambleside) Readers include: Jerome Rothenberg, Maggie Norton, South Lakes Poet Laureate), Geraldine Green, Robin Martakies and Florian Kaplik.

Day 1 - Friday 28th September venue: Zeffirellis Cinema, Ambleside

Speaking of Schwitters: local voices

9.00 - 10 am Registration

9.30 am Welcome and introduction Ian Hunter, LITTORAL Trust and Robin Martakies, Ambleside MERZ Ambassador

MERZ in Ambleside: Schwitters Remembered

Who was Kurt Schwitters and why is he important to South Lakeland and the North West? Presentations by curators, artists and writers who have been researching and working on aspects of Kurt Schwitters' life and work in Ambleside and the South Lakes.

10 am Mary Burkett CBE, former Director of Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Cockermouth

10.30 am Barbara Crossley, *Schwitters: the Ambleside Years*

11 am *Tea & Coffee*

11.30 am Meg Falconer, artist, and Vicky Slowe, Director of the Ruskin Museum, Coniston (*tbc*)

12 noon John Coome, Armit Museum, Ambleside *Schwitters at the Armit*

12.30 pm: Panel discussion and questions

1 - 2 pm: *Lunch*

'My Spirit Must Not Stop' Regional artists talk about Schwitters' legacy

North West region and Cumbrian artists talk about Schwitters' works and his continuing influence on the work of regional artists and the cultural life of the South Lakes.

2 pm Maggie Norton, Ulverston: '*MERZMAN*', a new poem about Schwitters commissioned from South Cumbria's Poet Laureate 2007.

2.30 pm John Darwell, artist/photographer, Carlisle: '*The Absences of Kurt Schwitters*'

3 pm Kevin O'Connor, performance artist, Ireby, Wigton: '*Meeting with Kurt*', an imaginary encounter with Kurt Schwitters laden with the questions I would like to ask him'.

3 pm *Tea & Coffee*

4 pm Robin Martakies, poet, and the official KS07 MERZ Ambassador in Ambleside

4.30 pm John Baldwin artist, Silverdale, and Joe Hesketh artist, Accrington. Regional artists and musicians (*Funnel Web*) collaborate on '*ANNA, ANNA..*' a new interpretation of Schwitters' famous poem/performance work, '*Anna Blume*'.

5.15 pm Panel discussion and close.

7.30 pm **Annual Kurt Schwitters lecture** (NB this take place in Chapel Stile Village Hall) '*That Dada Strain*', presentation by Jerome Rothenberg, poet (San Diego, USA) <http://epc.buffalo.edu/authors/rothenberg/>

Day 2 Saturday 29th September. venue: The Shippen, Cylinders Estate, Elterwater

MERZSCHRIFT: investigating Schwitters writings, performances and poetic works

9.30 am Welcome and introduction
Rosanna Raymond, artist, Aotearoa/New Zealand,
and Celia Lerner, Co-Director, the LITTORAL trust

The Ursonate and Schwitters' performed poetic works

10 am Jerome Rothenberg, poet: '*Translating Kurt Schwitters*', conference keynote presentation.

11 am *Tea & Coffee*

11.30 am Dr Goetz-Lothar Darsow, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, '*The Ursonate Reconsidered*'.

12 noon Dr Florian Kaplik, Fürth, '*Performing the Ursonate*' (tbc)

12.30 pm Panel discussion and questions

1- 2 pm Lunch

New writing about Schwitters and his contribution to Interdisciplinarity

2 pm Dr Dorothea Dietrich: Conference keynote presentation. Title to be confirmed.

3 pm *Tea & Coffee*

3.30 pm Gwendolen Webster, Aachen: '*the Schwitters Catalogue Raisonne project*'.

4 pm Professor Nigel Whiteley, Lancaster University: '*Schwitters and Interdisciplinarity*'

4.30 pm Professor Roger Cardinal, *Schwitters' lunatic story "Augusta Bolte"*.

5 pm Panel discussion and close.

8 pm **MERZ KABARET and barbecue – Cylinders Estate**
For conference delegates and the local community. International musicians, poets, dancers and singers celebrate the work and life of Kurt Schwitters.
Contributions from the *Funnel Web* band from Accrington; *MERZ*/Conrad Lambert; *Out to Lunch* with Ben Watson; *MERZbotschaft* Kevin O'Connor; and other Cumbrian traditional musicians, artists and poets.

Day 3 Sunday 30th September, at The Shippen, Cylinders Estate, Elterwater.

10.30 am -1 pm: **MERZ networking and advanced research seminars**

Informal roundtable sessions. The seminars are intended to encourage new scholarship, publications and exhibitions about the work of Kurt Schwitters in England, and to promote networking and open exchange of information between scholars, curators and artists interested in Schwitters.

- (a) *The Merzbauten projects in Norway and England, and new study of Schwitters' sculpture.*
Discussion of proposals for a major international exhibition, publication and conference project based on new study of Schwitters' *Merzbauten* and related sculpture projects.
- (b) *Exile artists and the impact of Entartete Kunst; Schwitters in England and on the Isle of Man.*
The experience of exile, and the impact of migrant and refugee artists on contemporary British and European culture. Schwitters and *Entartete Kunst*: an opportunity to participate in planning the 2008 KS08 *Herbst-Schule* conference programme.