



Memo "FigureThis"

Conference, London, UK, November 30, 2019

Speakers included **Corinne Wagner**, professor at the University of Exeter, on the relationship between the human figure and contemporary values and expectations.

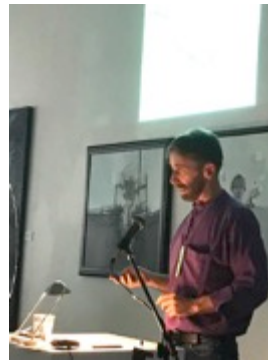
Conor Walton, artist, about the complex way in which socio-political ideas are embodied in figurative art and about the relationships between content, artist and viewer;

Eline Cerla and Jennifer Sendall artists and organisers of the conference, about the complex way in which the performing work process relates to the substantive representation.

Each lecture was concluded with a panel discussion.



Discussion (with Corinne Wagner)



Conor Walton



Eline Cerla & Jennifer Sendall

Participants were artists, art viewers, art students, art dealers and art lovers, all with a question or goal. Including:

Jane Clatworthy, painter: "The male nude is underexposed in modern figuration. There is even a denial of the beauty of the male body. The man is never portrayed vulnerably. Is the use of anatomical knowledge necessary for this, or does it stand in the way of the depiction of a contemporary male image?"

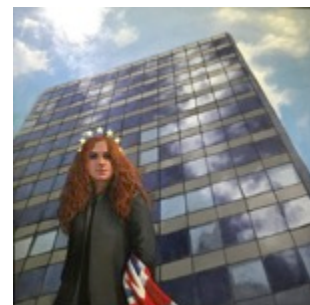
Tamsin Spargo, student of London Metropolitan University in Fine Art: "My conceptual studies do not answer questions such as: how do I use 'the figure' and is the depiction of figures still relevant in the depiction of existential questions?"



Jane Clatworthy



Wendy Elia



Jennifer Sendall, Europe

Questions about art as a commodity are also discussed:

Wendy Elia, painter: "My paintings are very personal and take place in my own limited living space, in my living room. Still, I think there should be a boundary between me and the public. There must be room for interpretation by the spectator. My personal or political views should not be imposed. I wonder how other figurative artists deal with this."

None of those present doubted the meaning of painting. Also having concrete control over the medium, especially in a digital age, was considered important.