

Carol Rhodes: Seen and Unseen

Reid Ground Floor Corridor

6th April - 23rd April 2024

This presentation accompanies a one-day symposium on the work of the painter **Carol Rhodes** (1959-2018). The symposium is co-ordinated by GSA School of Fine Art and GSA Exhibitions, in conjunction with Carol Rhodes estate.

Known for her depictions of landscape, Rhodes portrayed a world of semi-fictional locations that are at once familiar and ambiguous. Intimately scaled, densely rendered and typically taking an aerial viewpoint, her works often feature uninhabited industrial terrains and edgelands – factories, canals, motorways, reservoirs – described by the artist as ‘hidden areas’. This presentation explores a small selection of early works and drawings from Rhodes’s archive.

Rhodes studied at Glasgow School of Art (1977-82) but, following her graduation, became involved in social activism, organising and participating in feminist, pacifist, gay rights and social justice campaigns. She co-founded the Glasgow Free University (related items have been selected for this presentation by Dr Paul Pieroni, a Carol Rhodes bursary holder) and between 1986 and 1988 was part of a burgeoning group of artists associated with the artist-led Transmission Gallery. From 1999 onwards, she returned to Glasgow School of Art as a tutor. In 2012, along with Merlin James, she founded the gallery space 42 Carlton Place in Glasgow.

The presentation also includes work by Dr Sin Park, another of the Carol Rhodes bursary holders linked with the symposium. Park has selected items from Rhodes’s studio.

For more information and to book your free ticket for the symposium on 20th April scan the QR code.



Carol Rhodes (1959-2018) was born in Edinburgh and brought up in Bengal, India. She studied at Glasgow School of Art (1977-82) and during the 1980s she was actively involved in the Women's Movement, Transmission Gallery, Glasgow and the Glasgow Free University. At this time she made little art, but resumed painting in 1990 and started to exhibit her work in 1994. In 2012, with partner Merlin James, she set up an exhibition space in their home/studio at 42 Carlton Place, Glasgow where she co-curated exhibitions of work by, among others, Christina Ramberg, Adrian Morris and Louis Michel Eilshemius. She was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2013 and died in 2018.

Dr Sin Park is a painter, researcher, and lecturer at Glasgow School of Art. She holds a Ph.D. in Fine Art from the Glasgow School of Art, completed an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art, and earned a BFA in Painting and a BA in Art History from Ewha Womans University. Her research focuses on the reciprocal relationship between landscape and imagination, merging modes of storytelling through gestural marks that record and trace the present and the past. Engaging with Carol Rhodes's idea of "hidden areas" was key to creating paintings that evoke a sense of ambiguity, especially in the transitions of scenes she depicts. Park has been awarded the Carol Rhodes Bursary 2023. Later this year, she will present her solo show at Briggait, Glasgow, and a group show titled 'Frontier: Painting in Scotland' at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh.

Dr Paul Pieroni is a curator and art historian based in Glasgow. In 2023 he completed a PhD at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) on Peter Halley's 1980s 'Neo-geo' paintings. Previously he worked as a curator at GoMA, Tramway, and Space Studios. Pieroni has curated over forty exhibitions as an institutional curator. These include the 2015 Turner Prize, Glasgow; the first UK retrospective of British photographer, Jo Spence (organised with Studio Voltaire and White Columns); solo exhibitions by Aleksandra Domanović, Dean Blunt, P. Staff, Georgie Nettell, and Oliver Laric; and historical projects by Raymond Pettibon, Jack Smith, Kathy Acker, and Paul McCarthy. Pieroni has also worked extensively as an independent curator. Recent highlights include Scenes of the Crimes (2019), a group exhibition at Galerie Georg Kargl, Vienna, including work by Black Audio Film Collective, Richard Sides and Gili Tal, and Stuart Middleton; and Putti's Pudding: Cookie Mueller and Vittorio Scarpati (2017), at Studio Voltaire. Pieroni teaches in the History of Art department of ECA and has been a visiting lecturer at the RCA; Goldsmiths; and ZHDK. His writing has appeared in Frieze, Flash Art, and Art Review, amongst other publications.

List of works

1. *Activities*, Carol Rhodes, Pencil on paper, 2008
2. *Coast, Road and Building Site*, Carol Rhodes, Pencil on paper, 1996/2017

Vitrine 1

3. *Wall*, Carol Rhodes, Oil on board, 1993
4. *Open Tent*, Carol Rhodes, Oil on board, 1994
5. *Untitled, (drawing for the painting Airport)*, Carol Rhodes, Pencil on paper, c. 1995
6. *Untitled, (drawing for the painting Car Park, Canal)*, Carol Rhodes, Pencil on paper, c. 1994

Vitrine 2

Contains a selection of material from Carol Rhodes's archive including studies for early paintings. These date from 1992-94

7. *Flood Area*, Carol Rhodes, pencil on paper, 2003

Vitrine 3

Material from Carol Rhodes's archive, Selected by Paul Pieroni.

8. *Untitled (study for Aluminium Smelter)*, Carol Rhodes, pencil on paper, c. 2004-05
9. *Lecture and Book Launch: The Work of Carol Rhodes*, Reid Auditorium, The Glasgow School of Art, 20th April 2018 (duration: 01:09:47)

Vitrine 4

Material from Carol Rhodes's archive, Selected by Sin Park.

10. *Paths (Study of Carol Rhodes)*, Sin Park, oil on canvas, 2024
11. *Roads (Study of Carol Rhodes)*, Sin Park, oil on canvas, 2023
12. *The Lost Language of X*, Sin Park, oil on canvas, 2021

Acknowledgements

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Carol Rhodes estate

Carol Rhodes

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Film Resources List

Carol Rhodes and Prunella Clough: Affinities

Artist Merlin James and Dr Catherine Spencer of the University of St Andrews discuss the work of artist Carol Rhodes (1959–2018) and its affinities with that of British painter Prunella Clough (1919–1999).

[Talks & Lectures | Carol Rhodes and Prunella Clough: Affinities | National Galleries of Scotland](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWBJv4U4rjE>

Kettles Yard film

This film is an audio and visual recording of a talk given by Merlin James at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge on the occasion of a presentation in 2019-20 of five of Carol Rhodes's paintings in the Kettle's Yard house. These works were installed in conversation with the permanent collection housed there.

[Film – Carol Rhodes \(carolrhodesestate.com\)](#)