

**Excavating contemporary art education**  
***Tracing the history of Fine Art Critical Practice at Brighton***

Curated by Naomi Salaman and Sue Breakell

***Atrium Gallery, Grand Parade, University of Brighton***  
***4-29 April 2019***

**Opening Event**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 5-7pm**  
All Welcome

**Excavating contemporary art education** opens up a project to build an archive documenting the genesis and development of Brighton's **Fine Art Critical Practice** degree course, situating it in the context of British art school education post-1960. The origins of FACP lie in the conceptual art practices that emerged in the late 1960s, in the wake of the Coldstream report which restructured art education, and in the subsequent tumult of student protests and occupations of 1968. In 1971, fine art students working with what were then seen as 'alternative media' such as film and photography set up a separate studio space, supported by artist teaching staff such as John Hilliard, Bruce McLean, David Dye and Roy Grayson. The studio became known as Experimental Studies, then Alternative Practice, and subsequently Critical Practice. Although similar courses developed at other art schools up and down the country, **Fine Art Critical Practice** remains the longest running experimental fine art course, and continues to reinvent itself within changing political and educational climates. John Hilliard's 1971 film work *To and From*, made while teaching at Brighton Polytechnic, will feature, alongside documents from the newly created course archive. A visual representation of the course's history, including staff, visiting lecturers and students, mapped against changes in the structure and funding of higher education, will develop along the walls.

*During your breaks at the conference this year, please visit the exhibition, and if you have any information or questions about the course, past students or staff, we welcome your contribution. Or contact us [N.Salaman@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:N.Salaman@brighton.ac.uk) (Fine Art Critical Practice) and [s.m.breakell@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:s.m.breakell@brighton.ac.uk) (University of Brighton Design Archives)*

*A special issue of the Journal of Visual Art Practice devoted to the FACP Archive Project will be published later in 2019*