



**Reclaiming Spectacle: A two-day symposium, 7-8 September 2013**  
Horse Hospital, Colonnade, Bloomsbury, WC1N 1JD

**Saturday 7th September**

**10.00** Registration

**10.30** Welcome address

**Aaron Beebe** (Coney Island Museum), **Joanna Ebenstein** (Morbid Anatomy), **Petra Lange-Berndt** (Preserved!), **Mark Pilkington** (Strange Attractor).

**'Spectacular cultures'**

(moderated by Joanna Ebenstein, Morbid Anatomy)

**11.15** Richard Barnett, Engagement Fellow, Wellcome Trust: 'All the Fun of the Fair'

**12.00** Break

**12.15 Panel discussion: 'Being Spectacular, Collecting the Spectacular'**

Discussion with **Brian Catling** (artist), **Claire and Bob Humm** (artists), **Will Fowler** (curator of artists' moving images at the BFI), **Subhadra Das** (curator of UCL's biomedical Teaching & Research Collections) and **Carla Valentine** (curator of Barts Pathology Museum).

**13.30** Lunch

**14.30 Simon Werrett, Lecturer, Science and Technology Studies, UCL: 'Fireworks: Behind the Bang!'**

**15.15 Break**

**'Extraordinary bodies'**  
(moderated by Matt Lodder, Art Historian)

**15.45 Robert Mills, Lecturer, History of Art, UCL: 'Talking Heads, or, A Tale of Two Clerics'**

**16.30 Bill MacLehose, Lecturer in History of Science and Medicine, UCL: 'Remnants of Jesus' foreskin'**

**17.15 Break**

**17.30 Ross MacFarlane, Research Officer, Wellcome Library: 'Tom Thumb and the Hilton Sisters: Uncovering the 'Freaks' of the Wellcome Library'**

**18.15 End**

### **Sunday 8th September**

**'Nonhuman Spectacles'**  
(moderated by Petra Lange-Berndt, Lecturer, History of Art, UCL)

#### **10.00 'The Micro-Spectacular'**

Screenings of the films *An Insidious Intrusion* (2008) by artist **Tessa Farmer**, and *Serenading to Spiders* (2012) by artist **Eleanor Morgan**, followed by a panel discussion with **Bergit Arends** (Curator), **Gavin Broad** (Senior Curator, Hymenoptera, Natural History Museum), **Catriona McAra** (Research Fellow in Cultural Theory, University of Huddersfield) and **Eleanor Morgan** (Artist).

**11.15 Tim Cockerill, artist and zoologist: 'The Flea Circus: The Smallest Show on Earth'**

**12.00 Break**

**12.15 Dietmar Rübel, Professor of Art History and Theory, Art Academy Dresden: 'Blobjects: Nothing can stop it!'**

**13.00 Lunch**

**'Ritual and Spectacle'**  
(moderated by Mark Pilkington, writer and curator)

**14.00 Chiara Ambrosio, filmmaker and visual artist: 'Tarantism: Dance, Possession and Exorcism in Southern Italy'**

**14.45 Shannon Taggart, photographer and independent researcher, 'Physical Mediumship, Spiritualist Ritual and the Search for Ectoplasm'**

**15.30 Break**

**16.00 Panel discussion, 'Practicing Occultism'**

With **Cecile Dubuis** (artistic gothic librarian, UCL), **Christina Harrington** (Director of Treadwell's Bookshop), **Shannon Taggart** (photographer/independent researcher), **Robert Wallis** (Professor of Visual Culture, Richmond University).

**17.15 James Kennaway, History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University: 'Psychiatry vs. Religion'**

**18.00 Final discussion**

**18.30 End**