



Call for papers:

Urban Interventions: Transforming the City during Times of Crises

The Centre for International Visual Arts and Cultures and Department of Communications and The Arts at Richmond, American University London is pleased to invite submissions for a one-day conference to be held in Chiswick Park on 18 March 2024.

Social, political, and environmental issues in the city have always intersected the public and private, and marked the struggles between these spaces. This is particularly evident at times of crisis. Via nightly BBC news updates and rolling social media coverage, the covid pandemic brought public policy into households. The cost-of-living crisis is pushing people and households into financial precarity, while skyrocketing rents are forcing creative workers out of city spaces. Cities are becoming unaffordable and unliveable.

In the face of these crises, artists, activists, and critics of all stripes seek inventive and creative ways to express feelings of frustration and fear, and care and solidarity. From multi-platform demonstrations to cultural reforestation initiatives to artist-led DIY pop-ups, many urban citizens and creatives seek to reframe and renew our relationship with the city around us, offering resilience to contemporary urban challenges.

This event seeks to explore urban interventions at the intersection of public-private crises. It seeks to ask:

- In what ways do artists, activists, academics, influencers differently express contemporary urban crises?
 - What are the aims of their interventions and what are the various strategies used?
 - Where do these overlap and where do they diverge?
 - What can these different agents learn from each other?
- How are current crises in the city being framed? And what are the contestations around these frames?
- How do institutions/businesses such as museums and independent shops navigate the terrain of contemporary urban crisis?
- What are the ecological issues at the heart of these interventions?

We are looking to bring together artists, activists, academics, those working in crisis communication, and communication for social change for a conversation on the city in crisis and strategies/tactics for resilience.

Please send abstracts of up to 300 words for 15-minute talks to Nicola Mann and Susan Pell at pells@richmond.ac.uk by 8 January 2024. The organizers will announce all decisions about papers by 22 January 2024.

For further information please contact the organizers at the above email addresses. The conference is free and open to the public.



Richmond, American University London
Building 12, Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick High Road, W4 5AN

