

Privatising Culture

A One-Day Symposium hosted by **Variant Magazine**

CCA, Glasgow • 31 March 2007 • 10.30-5pm • FREE *but ticketed*

Tickets available from CCA box office

350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3JD

Box office: 0141 352 4900

The publication of the draft Culture (Scotland) Bill marks a defining moment in the relationship between the state and its cultural workers. The response so far has been largely hostile and this symposium will examine the arguments for and against the proposed legislation. However, the Bill is also published against a wider context of neoliberal reform in Scotland and elsewhere, marked by a diminishment in the freedoms of artists, intellectuals and their audiences. In the wake of worrying developments in higher education, local authorities and elsewhere, the symposium sets out to explore the extent of the privatisation of public culture. Are we witnessing a decisive turning of the Thatcherite screw in Scotland?

10.30am for 11am start

Critiquing the Bill

Owen Logan, photographer, Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen

Don't look back in anger

Rebecca Gordon Nesbitt, curator and writer based in Glasgow

Concerns with handing over Glasgow's Cultural & Leisure Services to a Private Trust

John Devine, UNISON convener, Culture & Leisure Services, Glasgow

The wider neoliberal policy frame

Alex Law, Lecturer in Sociology, Division of Sociology, School of Social & Health Sciences, University of Abertay Dundee

Lunch: 1pm - 2pm

Beyond Cultural Policy

Jim McGuigan, Professor of Cultural Analysis & Sociology Programme Director, Dept. of Social Sciences Loughborough University

The policy and politics of privatisation: the case of La Scala, Milan

Paola Merli, Faculty of Humanities, School of Media & Cultural Production, De Montfort University

Cultural responses to neoliberal globalisation: Avoiding false theoretical alternatives

Neil Davidson, Public Interest Research Fellow, Department of Geography & Sociology, Strathclyde University

Discussion: 4pm - 5pm



For further information please contact: variantmag@btinternet.com

Or see: <http://www.variant.org.uk/events.html>



Supported by: CCA; Variant; Dept. of Geography & Sociology, University of Strathclyde; Scottish Arts Council; and the good will of the speakers & guests.