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McAra, Catriona

Conteuses: An Evening with Kate Bernheimer

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CONTEUSES

"Fairy stories were bedtime stories,
but they were also flushed secrets I thought only I knew.
Their images filled me with rapture." - Bernheimer

AN EVENING WITH KATE BERNHEIMER

CURATED BY CATRIONA MCARA

HOSTED BY DANIELLE ARNAUD

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

SAMANTHA SWEETING

AND TESSA FARMER

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Friday 7 June 2013



In Came The Lamb: Samantha Sweeting, 2009

In honour of the American fairy tale writer Kate Bernheimer and in response to her renowned collection *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall* (1998), *Conteuses* invites you to an evening of collective discussion, collaboration and celebration. As we have learned from such critical Scheherazades as Bernheimer, Marina Warner (1994), Cristina Bacchilega (1999) and Elizabeth Wanning Harries (2001), the late seventeenth century gave rise to a trend of aristocratic female storytellers or *conteuses*, a tendency reflected in late twentieth century art and literature. But what has the early twenty-first century inherited and what constitutes feminist practice today? Is the prefix “woman” writer/artist unnecessary or does it still have a role to play in fairy tale telling, writing and making? How does it overcome cliché? Following in the glass footsteps of Angela Carter, A.S. Byatt, Kiki Smith, Dorothea Tanning and Leonora Carrington, among many others, we encounter a new generation of uncompromisingly subversive and achingly beautiful practice. This research-through-practice forum aims to explore notions of embodied storytelling by contemporary tellers of tales in a variety of media (including literature, sculpture and performance). *Conteuses* assembles a new generation of female voices in the hope of conjuring innovative connections and fostering intimate dialogues.

RSVP: Attendance by invitation only. Dr Catriona McAra (c.f.mcara@hud.ac.uk)

Address: Danielle Arnaud, 123 Kennington Road, London SE11 6SF UK

+44 (0)20 7735 8292

