



'Looking Out' D.Gardner and J.Millar

# CONWAY ACTANTS

A Site-Responsive art project at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square

13 November 2015 to 26 March 2016

[www.conwayhall.org.uk/conwayactants](http://www.conwayhall.org.uk/conwayactants)

- A unique art project which responds to the actants, spaces and archive of Conway Hall, home of the Conway Hall Ethical Society
- Works are installed around the building, allowing visitors access to this unique site
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30 – 8pm: artists' tour and talk (FREE)
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: an evening hosted by Club Critical Theory (FREE) *Radical Critical Spaces* <https://clubcriticaltheory.wordpress.com/>



'Stacks' (Conway Hall Library) J.Millar 2015



An artistic and curatorial collaboration between Deborah Gardner and Jane Millar, 'Conway Actants' is a visual art project in Conway Hall that directly responds to its ethos, activities, history and archive. Photographic collaboration revealing the more hidden spaces of Conway Hall, and its library at dusk, hang both inside and on the outside facing Red Lion Square. Hexagonal structures suspended from ceiling windows will link the bee hives on the roof with the collective interior space, mixed media paintings explore spaces and structures propagated by human and non-human agency and a series of assemblage works respond to archive portraits of key figures in the history of Conway Hall. Composers Cynthia Millar and Roly Porter collaborate on a sound work in a response to the

Library Hive' (Conway Hall Library) D. Gardner 2015

'piano auctions at Conway Hall and the itinerant nature of the objects and music. Conway Actants is a project that aims to make Conway Hall accessible for artistic intervention and therefore ultimately aims to increase awareness of an organisation with an extraordinary history of ethics and freethinking in Britain Conway Actants is supported with a grant from Arts Council England.

## About the artists

Deborah Gardner and Jane Millar are both artists and lecturers who have collaborated in several national and international projects, such as the exhibition So Near So Far/So Nahe, So Fern, at the Ebersberg Kunstverein, Germany and APT gallery, London and, most recently, *Curious*; the site-specific, Mayor of London funded art trail at West Norwood Cemetery, curated by Jane Millar, which attracted over six thousand visitors. Roly Porter and Cynthia Millar have collaborated a number of times since Aldeburgh Music's Faster than Sound commissioned 'Fall Back'. Roly Porter began his career as a member of Dubstep duo Vex'd and now works as a composer exploring sensual electronics and post-human landscapes as part of Bristol based Subtext Recordings. Cynthia Millar is best known as a player of the Ondes Martenot and has composed a number of scores for feature film, television and theatre.



'Cosmonaut' D. Gardner 2015

Southend based Club Critical Theory creates a critical space, bringing about a public engagement with the concept of critical theory as something that can be considered and applied to public life

## About Conway Hall

Conway Hall is owned by Conway Hall Ethical Society and was first opened in 1929. The name was chosen in honour of Moncure Daniel Conway (1832–1907), anti-slavery advocate, out-spoken supporter of free thought and biographer of Thomas Paine.

The Hall now hosts a wide variety of lectures, classes, performances, community and social events. It is renowned as a hub for free speech and independent thought.

Our Library holds the Ethical Society's collection, which is the largest and most

comprehensive Humanist research resource of its kind in the United Kingdom.



'Bismuth Two', J. Millar 2015

## Listings Information:

Title: Conway Actants

Address: Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL

Dates: 13 November to 26 March

Opening times: 9am to 9pm daily

Admission free

Phone: 02074051818

Web: [www.conwayhall.org.uk](http://www.conwayhall.org.uk)

Twitter: @ConwayHall Jane Millar@sitecurious

Press contact: [janemillar93@gmail.com](mailto:janemillar93@gmail.com) 07817906204



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