THE STUFF OF MEMORY
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER
10.30-17.30

PROGRAMME
“Memory exists only when it is recalled. My performances and sculptures are strategies for remembering, creating an archive of movement and moments.” – Alice Anderson

Memory is an imaginative and creative process, not a static repository. But what role does ‘stuff’ play in the act of remembering? How can memory be talked about in material terms? To accompany the Alice Anderson: Memory Movement Memory Objects exhibition, this symposium brings together leading experts to delve into the relationship between memory, materiality and objects.

What do we know about the physicality of memory? Do objects help us remember? What effect does digital technology have on our memories? How do collective memories manifest themselves? Can materials be said to have their own memory? From neurons to possessions and public memorials, this full day of talks and discussion will explore these questions and more from the perspectives of cognitive psychology, art, anthropology, material science, psychoanalysis and digital media.

Discussions will take place in the Henry Wellcome Auditorium and refreshments will be served in the Williams Lounge, both on level -1.

The Alice Anderson exhibition is on level 0, open 10.00–18.00. Today is the last day that visitors can donate an object to the exhibition. You are invited to donate an object that has particular significance to you or to society. Selected items will be ‘mummified’ by the artist and members of the public and will become a permanent part of The Studio Archive.

Event produced in collaboration with Maud Jacquin, independent curator.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER, 10.30–17.30

10.30 Opening remarks – Brian Dillon
10.40 Alice Anderson: Memory Movement Memory Objects – Kate Forde
11.00 When memory works and when it doesn’t – Martin Conway
11.40 Coffee break
12.00 Globital memory stuff – Anna Reading
12.40 Is memory enough? – Darian Leader
13.20 Lunch
14.30 The performativity of matter – Zoe Laughlin
15.10 MATERIAL CULTURE | MEMORY | MOVEMENT – Paul Basu
15.50 Coffee break
16.15 Roundtable discussion
16.50 Closing remarks
17.00 Drinks reception
17.30 Symposium ends
18.00 Wellcome Collection closes

Cover: Ropes, 2013. Matt Holyoak
### PROGRAMME

**SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER, 10.30–17.30**

**10.30 Opening remarks – Brian Dillon (chair)**


**10.40 Alice Anderson: Memory Movement Memory Objects – Kate Forde**

Kate Forde will consider Alice Anderson’s work as a response to the digital era, in which our memories are becoming disembodied, and living increasingly online. She will refer to Anderson’s show in the context of Henry Wellcome’s collection and his belief in the power of objects to enlighten us about the past.

Kate Forde is Head of Exhibitions at Wellcome Collection. She is the curator of *Alice Anderson: Memory Movement Memory Objects* and has previously worked on exhibitions about the relationship between war and medicine, the history of anatomical waxworks, sexology and dirt.

**11.00 When memory works and when it doesn’t – Martin Conway**

Martin Conway will discuss the modern view of human memory and how it can be applied to amnesia and other areas where memories may serve as ‘evidence’. Contrary to popular opinion, the main purpose of memory may not be to preserve a record of the past.

Professor of cognitive psychology and head of the psychology department at City University London, Martin Conway FRSA has been studying human memory for more than 30 years. He is known for his pioneering theoretical work on autobiographical memory, as well as for his studies of the neuropsychology of memory and memory’s neurological basis. His research also includes memory impairment and enhancement, and he has recently explored the links between the ability of humans to remember past events and imagine future ones.

**11.40 Coffee break, Williams Lounge**

**12.00 Globital memory stuff – Anna Reading**

Globital memory is what human beings get on mixing up the global with digital. This now makes the stuff of memory in the 21st century. Globital memory resides neither within us nor outside of us, but rather conveniently (and worryingly) you inhabit it and it now inhabits you. Globital memory penetrates and witnesses the fetus from before birth and extends its reach after death through social networks and distributed hard drives and electronic gadgets made from minerals mined at a cost from the Earth.

Anna Reading is the author and editor of a number of books, including: *The Social Inheritance of the Holocaust: Gender, culture and memory; Save As… Digital memories; and Cultural Memories of Nonviolent Struggles*. Her new book, *Gender and Memory in the Globital Age*, will be published by Palgrave in 2016. She also writes plays and leads the Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries at King’s College London.
12.40  Is memory enough?
– Darian Leader

Darian Leader will address what relation material objects and spaces can have to the process of memory. Can there be one without the other?

Darian Leader is a psychoanalyst working in London and a member of the Centre for Freudian Analysis and Research and of the College of Psychoanalysts – UK. He is the author of several books, including: Introducing Lacan; Why Do Women Write More Letters Than They Post?: Freud’s Footnotes; Stealing the Mona Lisa: What art stops us from seeing; Why Do People Get Ill? (with David Corfield); The New Black: Mourning, melancholia and depression; and What is Madness?. His most recent book, Strictly Bipolar, was published by Hamish Hamilton in 2013.

13.20  Lunch, Williams Lounge

14.30  The performativity of matter
– Zoe Laughlin

Materials perform. Stuff is constantly getting up to things. Matter is doing all of the time, at varying scales of time and space, in order to exist and generate the world of objects. This will be a demonstration-led exploration of materials and what they get up to.

Zoe Laughlin is a co-founder and director of the Institute of Making and the Materials Library project. She holds an MA from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and obtained a PhD in Materials within the Division of Engineering, King’s College London. Working at the interface of the science, art, craft and design of materials, her work ranges from formal experiments with matter to materials consultancy and large-scale public exhibitions and events with partners including Tate Modern, the Hayward Gallery, the V&A and Wellcome Collection. Her particular areas of interest are currently the sound of materials, the taste of materials and the performativity of matter, with outputs ranging from theatrical demonstration lectures to the making of instruments and features on both radio and television.
15.10  MATERIAL CULTURE | MEMORY | MOVEMENT  
– Paul Basu

People shape their material worlds, and the material world shapes people. Objects, landscapes, buildings and monuments may be regarded as carriers of memory – both personal and collective. The movement of people and things is entangled. Paul Basu, Professor of Anthropology at SOAS University of London, draws upon contemporary material culture studies to explore the ‘stuff of memory’ and the migrant nature of both memory and materiality through a series of case studies from cross-cultural contexts.

Paul Basu’s doctoral research at UCL was concerned with genealogical heritage tourism and the historical imagination in the Scottish Highland diaspora. His regional specialisation has subsequently been focused in West Africa, and particularly in Sierra Leone, where he continues to work on issues around landscape, memory and cultural heritage. Paul was Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at Sussex University, before returning to UCL to take up a Readership in Material Culture and Museum Studies. He became Professor of Anthropology and Cultural Heritage at UCL prior to joining SOAS in 2015. Before becoming an anthropologist, Paul trained and worked as a film maker, and he continues to explore the use of different media in ethnographic research and exhibition curation.

15.50  Coffee break, Williams Lounge

16.15  Roundtable discussion

16.50  Closing remarks

17.00  Drinks reception

17.30  Symposium ends

18.00  Wellcome Collection closes
An accompanying book featuring beautiful photography of the objects and introductory texts is available in the Wellcome Shop for £14.99.

A limited edition box set comprising a unique Alice Anderson artwork and cloth-bound book is also available, please enquire in the Wellcome Shop for further details.
We’re here, visit us soon!

By train
- Euston, St Pancras, King’s Cross
- Euston, Euston Square, Warren Street, King’s Cross

By bus
10, 18, 24, 27, 29, 30, 59, 68, 73, 88, 91, 134, 168, 205, 253, 390.

Galleries are open 10.00–18.00 Tuesday–Saturday (Thursdays until 22.00) and 11.00–18.00 on Sunday. Galleries are closed on Monday.

Stay later every Thursday and on the first Friday of every month (except for August and January). We’re open until 22.00 so you can enjoy the exhibitions, Reading Room, restaurant and café out of hours.

See wellcomecollection.org/visitus for full details, including Library opening times and public holidays.

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