

**CCW and The Baring Archive announce *re:SEARCHING: playing in the archive*
Part 1**

**A collaboration between the University of the Arts London and The Baring Archive
7 May – 4 June 2010, The Baring Archive, 60 London Wall, London EC2M 5TQ**

Led by the Graduate School at CCW (Chelsea College of Art and Design, Camberwell College of Arts and Wimbledon College of Art), *re:SEARCHING* enabled artists and researchers across a number of disciplines and institutions to select artefacts in The Baring Archive and to create a new piece of work. New work will be exhibited alongside the historical pieces, a rare opportunity given the issues over conservation and stewardship that usually inhibit such an arrangement.

Although it is current practice for artists to produce work in response to collections and archives, *re:SEARCHING* is unusual in that the artists are reacting to a financial archive which is more often used by historians. Practitioners have responded to a range of items, including a sketch by Sir Thomas Lawrence of Sir Francis Baring, the firm's founder; the prospectus for the financing of the Louisiana Purchase; Russian bearer bonds (which ceased to pay interest following the Revolution); and material relating to the Buenos Aires Water Supply & Drainage Company.

re:SEARCHING involves research staff from across CCW, and also from the University of Sussex and the University of Central Lancashire. Their disciplines embrace art history, book art, graphic design, painting and sculpture, a particularly wide range for a project of this nature.

The participants are: Professor Oriana Baddeley (Director of CCW Graduate School Research), George Blacklock (Dean, Wimbledon College of Art), Professor Rod Bugg (formerly Principal of Wimbledon College of Art), Jane Collins (Reader in Theatre, CCW), Peter Farley (Senior Lecturer, Theatre: Design for Performance, Wimbledon), Stephen Farthing (Rootstein Hopkins Research Professor in Drawing, UAL), Lubaina Himid (Professor of Contemporary Art, University of Central Lancashire), Eileen Hogan (Research Professor CCW, and curator of *re:SEARCHING*), Susan Johanknecht (Course Leader, MA Book Arts, Camberwell College of Arts), Dr Geoff Quilley (Senior Lecturer in Art History, University of Sussex), Professor Chris Wainwright (Head of CCW), Brian Webb (Professor of the UAL and Director, Webb & Webb).

Part 2 will take place in May 2011 and will also see the launch of a publication about the project. As well as the existing participants, two further strands will be introduced. Funded by the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation a CCW PhD student will present evidence from research into the importance of archives to artists, and conservation students from Camberwell College of Arts will comment on the characteristics of the different account book structures and materials used by Barings in the first hundred years of its life.

Notes for editors

The Baring Archive (www.baringarchive.org.uk) comprises the business papers of Baring Brothers & Co, latterly known as Barings PLC. It is among the finest archives of a financial institution and contains material of international significance dating from the founding of the firm as a partnership of merchants in 1762 to its acquisition by ING in 1995, by which time Barings was a global investment bank. Thus the Archive documents the development of the international financial markets. The collection also contains a group of historical portraits of individuals associated with the firm. Artists include Sir Thomas Lawrence and John Linnell. The Baring Archive Limited (TBAL), a charitable company, was recently established by the collection's owner, ING, to safeguard and manage the Archive and associated historical portraits and to develop their use as an educational resource. In 2008 ING loaned the collections to TBAL in perpetuity.

The Graduate School at CCW (www.chelsea.arts.ac.uk/graduateschool.htm) (Chelsea College of Art and Design, Camberwell College of Arts and Wimbledon College of Art) brings together all three college's postgraduate and research provision and is part of the University of the Arts London.

Background to *re:SEARCHING*

re:SEARCHING arises out of a six-year collaboration between Wimbledon College of Art and ING, the owner of The Baring Archive, investigating the relationship between artists, archives and collections. The collaboration has resulted in two previous exhibitions, *re:MAKING* and *re:INVENTING*, in which artists created new work in response to paintings in ING's art collection.

The exhibition can be viewed **by appointment** in office hours.

For more information or to arrange to view the exhibition, please contact:

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