

THE ART OF RITUAL

Draft Publicity & Schedule 14 Sept. 2015

The boundaries between art and ritual are becoming more and more porous as artists engage in performance work with highly stylized routines or actions and celebrants (religious and non-religious) explore the use of art to help people mark the important milestones in their lives. This day will bring together practitioners in all forms of ritual and art to share ideas, talk about trends, experience artistic rituals and enjoy performances.

The day will be hosted by Cole Moreton, journalist, broadcaster and author of 'Is God Still an Englishman' which explores the great changes in British culture, spirituality and national identity in recent years.

The event will include performance art, discussion, networking opportunities and a Gravetalk Café. The afternoon will conclude with a visit to the Beach Hut Advent Calendar opening for that night and will be followed by an evening performance of 'Mass' by Amy Mason.

Draft Schedule

- 8am** **Registration opens**
- 9.30am** **Opening 'Ceremony' Naomi Gordon, Performance Artist**
- 9.45** **Ritual Trends in Society today**
Linda Woodhead, Professor in the Sociology of Religion,
Lancaster University
- 10.15** **Creating community through artistic events**
John Vara, Artistic Director of Same Sky
Community arts charity in Brighton
- 10.45** **Crafting meaning through community art**
Martin Poole, Founder of Beyond
Creator of the Beach Hut Advent Calendar
- 11.15** **Coffee and networking**
- 11.45** **The Connection between Art and Ritual**
Claire Raftery, Artistic Director of Periplum
Producers of largescale art/performance pieces (TBC)

12.15 The Ritual of Olympic opening ceremonies
Clare Amsel, Producer of opening ceremonies for Olympic and Commonwealth Games (TBC)

12.45 Lunch - including Gravetalk cafe

2pm Finding Spirituality in Art
Ian Adams, poet, writer and artist,
Author of Running over Rocks

2.30 A personal reflection on art, religion and death
Amy Mason, writer and performer
Author of the one woman play 'Mass'

3pm Cultural shifts in Funeral Practice from Hackney to Accra
John Harris, T. Cribb funeral directors

3.30 Modern Ritual and the Loss of Lament
Jeremy Brooks, Author of Heaven's Morning Breaks
A book about funeral practice in the UK

4pm Death and the Digital Domain
James Norris, Founder of Dead Social
Working with people and their digital legacy

4.30 Reflections on the day – Cole Moreton

5pm Tea and networking

5.30pm Leave for Beach Hut Advent Calendar

8pm – MASS
A performance by Amy Mason

9pm RECEPTION (TBC)