

Programme

Lifelong Learning – Castles Study Day – Saturday 17 June 2017

Southampton City Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY

We are delighted that you will be able to join us for the Castles Study Day. Please find the programme below.

Strong-hold: Castle walls and female spaces in literature since medieval times



Study Day Programme

10:00	Coffee/Tea
10:10	Welcome
10:15	<p>I Capture the Castle – Professor Ros King, University of Southampton</p> <p>The debut novel by Dodie Smith that lent its name to this exhibition has never been out of print; it has also been a film (twice) and recently a musical. It is the diary of a teenage girl (who wrote her 'very best poem while sitting on the henhouse') in which she 'captures' her Bohemian family, and copes with the perils of love, while struggling to survive in a romantic, ruined castle in 1930s Suffolk. With echoes of both Jane Austen and modernism, it shares a song, as well as its sense of innocently explicit sex and fun, with the pre Hayes-code movie <i>Love Me Tonight</i> (1932) – also set in a castle, in France.</p>
11 :00	<p>Castles as perilous female space in the fourteenth-century romance <i>Sir Bevis of Hampton</i> – LynnForest-Hill, Visiting Fellow at the University of Southampton</p> <p>In <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>, Bertilak's lady imperils Gawain's reputation when she visits his chamber in her husband's castle. This is the best-known example in literature of perilous female space, but in the earlier <i>Sir Bevis of Hampton</i>, castle spaces controlled by women imperil lords and knights in more diverse ways. This paper argues that in this epic early fourteenth-century verse narrative, female space is a much wider testing ground for personal virtues and social conventions, interrogating tropes of male dominance; faith; and female motivation.</p>
11 :30	Coffee/Tea
11 :45	Introduction to the <i>Capture the Castle</i> Exhibition - Tim Craven, Curator
12 :15	Lunch and tours of the Exhibition
13 :45	<p>From Catastrophe to Anastrophe: Howard Barker's <i>The Castle</i> - Dr Alireza Fakhkonander, University of Southampton</p> <p>In Howard Barker's play <i>The Castle</i>, a lord and his men return from the crusades to find their women in control, and their land (as they see it) gone to rack and ruin. Rejected by his defiant and unfaithful wife, the lord orders the erection of a castle – all straight lines and repressive phallic structures. But over the course of the play, and for a variety of reasons – including the captive muslim architect being seduced by the lord's wife – this castle undergoes a drastic transfiguration into a feminine morphology of curves and folds. Oppositions of gender, politics and religion are all subverted in this play.</p>
14 :30	Coffee/Tea

14 :45	Castle walls and effeminised spaces in Shakespeare - Professor Ros King, University of Southampton It has often puzzled commentators that the speech given by Shakespeare to John of Gaunt in <i>Richard II</i> , which has been so often quoted as an ideal expression of royal England – a natural fortress, moated by a silver sea – should have been recycled, and put into the mouth of the wicked Queen in <i>Cymbeline</i> . This talk explores that notorious piece of self-plagiarism, and looks again at the castles of Shakespeare’s histories.
15 :30	Questions and discussions
16 :00	Event ends

Feedback

Please find attached a feedback form for the study day, we would be most grateful if you could complete and return this form to a member of the team before leaving at the end of the day. Many thanks!