Output type: Public Lecture

Date: 25th April 2018

Commissioners: NEPN – The North East Photo Network

*‘Wendy McMurdo will be giving a talk about her practice on Wednesday 25 April as part of our new project*Observe. Experiment. Archive *which will explore the links between photography, science and technology.   The talk starts at 6.30pm in the Lecture Theatre and will be followed by a Q&A and informal conversation in the Library.*

*Mining Institute (Lecture Theatre), Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE.*

*Wendy McMurdo was born in Edinburgh where she initially trained as a painter.  She left the UK in the mid 1980s for the Pratt Institute, New York.  While studying there, she turned to photography and on returning to the UK, began to work for the first time with this medium. After completing an MA at Goldsmiths College, London, she was awarded a two-year fellowship by The Henry Moore Foundation.  These two years were to prove critical in her development and in 1993 she produced her first major solo exhibition In a Shaded Place. Working for the first time with the computer, she produced a series that explored the intersection between autographic photography and the digital image.*

*The rapid proliferation of computers in schools provided the context for the development of her next body of work that looked directly at the influence of computers on early years education. Working closely with local schools, she explored the role of the child within the school, the growth of the Internet and the development of networked play. In related projects, she shadowed school parties on educational visits to various local museums, a process which evolved naturally from photographing in the classroom. From this, she produced series of works that explored the ways in which children related to the museum and its objects in a world of increasing simulation.*

*Wendy’s work has been shown throughout Europe in exhibitions such as The Anagrammatical Body: The Body and its Photographic Condition curated by Christa Steinle and Peter Weibel for ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; Uncanny, curated by Urs Stahel for the Fotomuseum Wintherthur and Only Make Believe curated by Marina Warner for Compton Verney, Warwickshire, UK. In 2017, her project Indeterminate Objects (classrooms) was commissioned for The Photographers’ Gallery Media Wall in London.*

*In 2014 a mid-career retrospective exhibition of her work Digital Play was included as part of Generation –  25 years of contemporary art in Scotland, a nationwide programme of exhibitions and events celebrating the last 25 years of contemporary art in Scotland. This comprehensive exhibition brought together works from several of her film and photography projects.  In 2015 she was awarded a PhD by publication by the University of Westminster for her work exploring the relationship of children and photography to the computer.’* Retrieved: <http://www.northeastphoto.net/?s=wendy+mcmurdo>

