

## David Cotterrell: Inaugural Lecture - 17.11.16

Date: 17th November 2016

David Cotterrell, Professor of Fine Art at the University of Brighton, presents his inaugural lecture: 'Empathy and Risk'

For the past few years, Cotterrell has been embarking on an eclectic series of field trips and producing a series of experimental artworks to clarify his experience and understanding of fear, risk and empathetic failure.

He had been feeling uncomfortable with war being described as a declared state rather than a location on an iterative scale of social disintegration. While accepting that some measure of polarisation is a pre-requisite for conflict, Cotterrell has been considering the iterative progressive cycle of disengagement that is required to allow barriers to be constructed, long before they're recognised as fortifications. His research seeks to consider the staged challenges to empathy that occur long prior to the descent into the polarised engagement of military forces.

Where risk has been identified, and measures are variably employed as responsive protocols, a situation of distancing occurs most obviously between the observer and the subject, but also between the perceptions of different observers. This lecture explores the contradictory nature of mutually exclusive versions of truth, the way in which risk can be a catalyst to the creation of partial truths and the possibility of the loss of pluralist narratives as communities and individuals are denied access to each others vantage points.

In his inaugural lecture Cotterrell will describe the motivation and observations of his ongoing research. At a time of increasing political polarisation, he will discuss an artists idiosyncratic search to find languages with which to explore the failure of dialogue.

### DATE AND TIME

Thu 17 November 2016

18:30-21:00 GMT (The lecture will run from 6.30pm-7.30pm and is followed by a canap reception.)

[Add to Calendar](#)

### LOCATION

Sallis Benney Theatre

58-67 Grand Parade

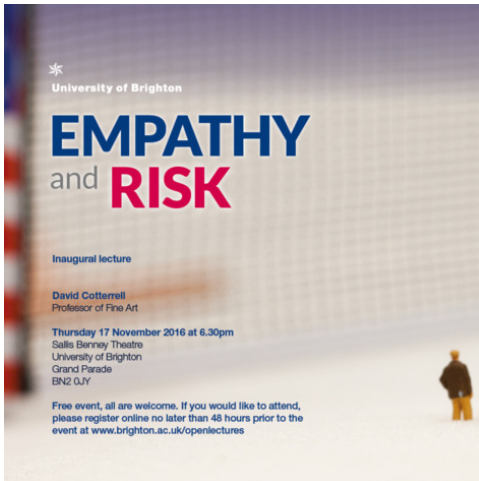
Brighton

BN2 0JY

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### TICKETS

This is a free event. All are welcome. If you would like to attend, please register online no later than 48 hours prior to the event at [www.brighton.ac.uk/openlectures](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/openlectures)



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