

CURATORIAL READING GROUP

OUT OF THE LIBRARY

READING LISTS

03

Brian Dillon

LIBRARY GUIDE

PUBLICS

LIBRARY

PUBLICS is a curatorial and contemporary art commissioning agency with a dedicated library, exhibition and event space and reading room in Vallila, Helsinki. The organisation explores an institutional 'work together' model with multiple overlapping objectives, thematic strands and collaborations. The space functions as a public event space, with a library of 8000+ publications.

PUBLICS hosts reading groups, talks, events, exhibitions and performances in collaboration with other partners in the city, nationally and internationally. PUBLICS is a peer-to-peer educational platform and a critical agency where artists, curators, researchers, students, communities and professionals are invited to engage with social issues, as well as gain and share knowledge through various discourses. At PUBLICS, contemporary art production and discursive practices are in constant dialogue through multiple strands. Taking the form of PUBLICS Library and its public program of Talks, Events and Commissions, these overlapping strands are organised alongside PUBLICS Youth program, placing art education, critical research and publicness at the core of curatorial practice.

PUBLICS LIBRARY AS CURATORIAL PRACTICE

↳ PUBLICS takes the Library as one starting point for Curatorial Thinking. PUBLICS thinks with the Library, with its readers, its guests.

Thinking can begin with one book, but then on to another, and another, a different kind of conversation takes place.

Having books side by side is more than the sum of their parts; it's being in contradiction to one another; it's being plural. Arranging things together and working in groups is a productive form of collaboration.

PUBLICS Methodology and Curatorial Thinking (re-)imagines PUBLICS Library:

Library as collection of bodies,
books, words, ideas

Library as process

Library as lived time and space,
sometimes in between

Library as past, present, and future publics

Library as form and content

Library as resource

Library as reference

Library as space for gathering, participating,
and producing

Library as conversation

Library as setting for events, exhibitions,
interventions, and art making

Library as public practice

Library as listening and reading,
and writing

Library as slow programming

Library as body practice

Library as its people

Library as remembering;
as collective memories,

Library as traces, remainders, reminders

Library as educational;
as learning,
as counter-knowledge

Library as institution;
as instituting

Library as organising and organisational
structure

Library as map

Library as work-together model

Library as host and guest

Library as parahosting

Library as shared and sharing

Library as publisher and distributor

Library as curator and commissioner

Library as making research public in public

Library as resistance

WHAT IS PUBLICS LIBRARY?

↳ PUBLICS Library is a public research space dedicated to critical social thinking, learning and education – a place for coming together, discussing, reading and thinking about contemporary art and its many publics. The library is dedicated to representing and challenging the many concepts, theories and practices of curating contemporary art and publicness.

PUBLICS Library is the largest dedicated contemporary art curatorial library in Finland and the Nordic Region, housing the most important books and catalogues related to contemporary art curating since the 1960s as well as rare and out-of-print content, with purchases from and donations by some of the leading figures of contemporary art over the last thirty years.

As our program changes with every season, we organise and host book launches, lectures, talks, reading groups, presentations, symposiums and other publication-related events and exhibitions with local and international guests.

In 2024 PUBLICS launched The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, a new centre in the Nordic and Baltic region focusing on the significance of past and present



thinking, knowledge, and critique within practices of the curatorial.

With The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS provides a critical framework to engage different levels of expertise and local groups in the region and internationally, making visible, developing, and disseminating critical knowledge of curatorial practices with a wide range of institutions and actors.

Through The Centre For Curatorial Thinking, PUBLICS co-curates a program of archival exhibitions, listening sessions, and the Curatorial Reading Group. The aim of the centre is to provide a platform for local curators and art professionals to interact with international colleagues who have contributed to the evolution of innovative curatorial practices of the last sixty years or so.

Each session of the Curatorial Reading Group will be accompanied by an exhibition at PUBLICS of reading and archival material related to our pioneering guests. The aim of this group is to encourage and facilitate interactions between local and international art professionals and curators.

PUBLICS Library is structured around the following 16 categories:

- P1 PHILOSOPHY
- P2 ART THEORY
- P3 PUBLIC ART
- P4 CURATORIAL
- P5 GROUP SHOWS
- P6 ART WRITING
- P7 BIENNIALS
- P8 SOLO SHOWS
- P9 BOOK SERIES
- P10 SMALL
- P11 EDUCATION
- P12 NEW
- P13 ARCHIVE
- P14 MAGAZINES
- P15 SOUND
- P16 FOREIGN LANGUAGE



OUT OF THE LIBRARY

↳ Every now and then we bring attention to some of the Library contents, and focus upon some key topics and thematics. Out of the Library lists are compiled by invited guests, artists, curators, PUBLICS staff and highlight publications under selected subjects. The lists offer a wide range of materials for study and research and serve as thematic guides to our Library collection.

Out of the Library lists can be found online and books are available to browse on site at PUBLICS. As the program keeps on growing, please find a list:

- Maaretta Jaukkuri & Tominga O'Donnell
- Maria Lind & Martí Manen
- Brian Dillon
- Maria Fusco
- AA Bronson & Gareth Long

- Shimmer & Gordon Hall
- Black Studies
- Education
- 2084
- The Publishing Reader
- Nomadism
- Collaborative Articulations
- Geographies of Resistance
- WITH Askeaton Contemporary Arts



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Curatorial Reading Group:
Brian Dillon
26 September, 2024

BRIAN DILLON
SUGGESTED READING

→ Dillon, Brian, 'On essays and essayists',
p. 23-47, in *Essayism*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2017)

→ Dillon, Brian, 'For the Simple Reason Is',
p. 27-34, in *Cabinet Magazine*, Issue 55,
Fall 2014
(Cabinet, United States, 2014)

→ Dillon, Brian, 'Through a Glass Darkly:
A new book argues criticism should embrace
bewilderment', in *The Yale Review*, Volume 112,
No. 2., Summer 2024
(Johns Hopkins University Press, United
States, 2024)

→ Dillon, Brian, 'The Grand Illusion',
p. 105-116, in *Suppose a Sentence*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2020)

BOOKS EDITED, CO-EDITED OR WRITTEN
BY BRIAN DILLON IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

→ Dillon, Brian, *Affinities*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2023)

→ Dillon, Brian, *Suppose a Sentence*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2020)

→ Dillon, Brian, *In the Dark Room*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2018)

→ Dillon, Brian, *Essayism*
(Fitzcarraldo Editions, United Kingdom, 2017)

→ Dillon, Brian, *The Great Explosion*
(Penguin, United Kingdom, 2015)

→ Dillon, Brian, *Objects in the Mirror*
(MIT Press, Germany, 2014)

→ Dillon, Brian, *Sanctuary*
(Sternberg Press, Germany, 2011)

→ Dillon, Brian, *Tormented Hope: Nine
Hypochondriac Lives*
(Penguin, United Kingdom, 2009)

BOOKS WITH CONTRIBUTION
BY BRIAN DILLON IN PUBLICS LIBRARY

→ Dillon, Brian, 'Present Future', in *Time*
(Whitechapel Gallery, United Kingdom, 2013)

→ Dillon, Brian, 'Dust', 'Gesture', 'Humor',
'Ruination', in *Curiosity and Method: Ten
Years of Cabinet Magazine*
(Cabinet, United States, 2012)

→ Cabinet Magazine Issue 26, Summer 2007
(Cabinet, United States, 2007)

→ Cabinet Magazine Issue 7, Summer 2002
(Cabinet, United States, 2002)

BRIAN DILLON

Brian Dillon is an Irish writer and critic based in London. His books include *Affinities* (2023), *Suppose a Sentence* (2020), *Essayism* (2017), *The Great Explosion* (2015) (shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize), *Objects in This Mirror: Essays* (2014), *Tormented Hope: Nine Hypochondriac Lives* (2009) (shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize) and *In the Dark Room* (2005), which won the Irish Book Award for non-fiction. His writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *London Review of Books*, the *New Yorker*, *New York Review of Books*, *frieze* and *Artforum*. He has curated exhibitions for Tate and Hayward galleries. Formerly Head of Programme in Writing at the Royal College of Art, he is currently professor of Creative Writing at Queen Mary University of London.

NOTES

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PHOTO CREDITS
p. 5, 8 → Noora Lehtovuori
p. 6 → Aman Askarizad

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T I Ö saastamoinenfoundation.fi



Talteen edistämiskeskus
Centret för konstfrämjande
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

PUBLICS

Sturenkatu 37-41 4b
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OPENING HOURS

PUBLICS Library is open every
Wednesday 12-6pm and by
appointment.

To book an appointment, donate a
publication or ask a question, please
contact one of our staff members.

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