

Homes Under Pressure

31st March 2015, The Geffrye Museum of the Home



THE DISTREST POET.



(left) William Hogarth, *The Distrest Poet*, 1741, etched engraving on paper; (right) Printed black and white photograph of Robert Appleby and his neighbour Claude building an air-raid shelter in the back garden of Robert's home in Hayes, Middlesex, 1940. By kind permission of Madeleine Macdonald

This conference will explore how museums and researchers can document homes under pressure across the world in both contemporary and historical contexts. Homes can come under pressure from a variety of forces or influences, such as social change, economic hardship, politics and the law, or personal difficulty. This pressure is felt in homes in a wide variety of ways, and can create or entrench inequalities based on gender, class, race, sexuality, and ability. At the same time, pressure on homes creates or calls for responses, alternatives, and new forms of homes: these can range from the very personal and individual, to more collective responses rooted in or inspired by activism. Alongside this, researching and displaying these homes under pressure can provide a number of methodological and ethical challenges. This conference aims to bring together a breadth of papers that explore homes under pressure in order to ask how this pressure comes about and impacts on the home, to create unique comparisons across time and contexts, and to encourage a debate about how they might be documented by researchers and addressed and displayed in museums, galleries, and historic houses.

Papers might include but are not limited to:

- Methodologies for studying homes under pressure
- Displacement and loss of home
- Homes and power
- Homes of the vulnerable and institutional homes
- Temporary, transient or portable homes
- Activism and homes
- 'Alternative' homes
- Displaying and communicating homes under pressure in museums and galleries

Confirmed speakers: **Rachael Crofts** on the Geffrye's work with young people at the New Horizon Youth Centre, an organisation for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and **Rebecca Preston and Lesley Hoskins** on curating *Homes Of The Homeless: Seeking Shelter in Victorian London* at the Geffrye (opening March 2015). The conference is convened by Greg Salter, Geffrye Museum.

Please submit a proposal using the form available from <http://historiesofhomessn.wordpress.com/> to Jacqueline Winston-Silk JWinston-Silk@geffrye-museum.org.uk by 9 January 2015. Participants will be notified of acceptance by 23 January 2014.