

MATTHEW CORNFORD THE ART SCHOOL PROJECT

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There were over 150 art schools in this country in the mid-1960s. Most of them are now closed or absorbed into other institutions and the buildings repurposed, remodelled or demolished. What did it mean to have an art school in every town and what can we learn by discovering their fate? John Beck and Matthew Cornford are hunting down all of England's art schools and photographing the sites as they are today. Sometimes the original building remains, sometimes car parks, supermarkets or building sites have taken their place.

At this talk Matthew Cornford presented their work in progress and discussed ambitions to complete a survey of all the former art schools in South West, England.

BIOGRAPHIES: John Beck is a writer and academic based in the School of Humanities at the University of Westminster. Matthew Cornford is an artist and leads the BA (Hons) Fine Art Critical Practice course at the University of Brighton.

REFERENCES

The North West Art School Record Machine, Bury Art Museum (2019-20)
<https://designmcr.com/events/the-north-west-art-school-record-machine>

Michael Orr, review published in Corridor 8
<https://corridor8.co.uk/article/the-north-west-art-school-record-machine/>

The Art School of North West England, Bluecoat, Liverpool (2018-19)
<http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/gallery/john-beck-and-matthew-cornford-the-art-schools-of-north-west-england>

Ed Montana-Williams, review published in Corridor 8
<https://corridor8.co.uk/article/the-art-schools-of-north-west-england-a-eulogy-for-a-lost-culture/>

What Was Art School? Talk at the University of Leicester (2017)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWF-t_A50mo

From the Local Art School to Globalised Bohemia: talk at Winchester School of Art (2014)
<https://vimeo.com/95292267>

Photo by Steve Tanner, of *Hippo Campus: Where We Learn* at The Exchange, 2020