

Presenter: Jason E. Bowman

Title: Scavenging Surveillance.

Jason E. Bowman will examine his 2009-10 project Untitled (on a day unknown), commissioned by the Whitworth Art Gallery. Bowman worked with Out in the City - a group of LGBTQ senior citizens - to exhume then re-iterate and interpret a court case of a group of 29 men tried for homosexual crimes in 1936 in a small English town. From multiple archival resources - newspaper reports, criminal and court records etc. – the trial, its mediation within popular press and its meanings within a culture of inter-war years surveillance were re-traced. Via a performative reiteration of the trial, held in private, a series of pinhole photographs and a suite of drawings, conducted from memory by a official court artist, were produced, then co-exhibited. Jason will discuss the relations between the psychoanalytic culture of shame, the performativity of the legal body, and of scavenging amidst an historiography of surveillance as a method to ingeminate the queered archive as a site of trauma, violence and inspection.

Jason E. Bowman is MFA: Fine Art Programme Leader at Valand Academy and an artist with a curatorial practice. His art addresses obscured histories and the coercion of publics through participatory methods. In 2014, he was awarded a Swedish Research Council grant to conduct a three-year long study into the curatorial within artist-led/self-organised cultures.

Links to Testimonies of Out in the City Members:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0Nfnn4UHYw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSw3qUkNgc4>