

Reeve Hester

Right to Protest and Freedom of Association!

life art action

As a live artist who works with human agency, site-specificity and duration, I am taking artistic licence and applying the above clause of the Human Rights Act (1998, UK) to the conference event. What might the protest format allow for in terms of textual readings, embodied philosophical ideas and performative enquiry that a paper, workshop or staged performance might not? My appropriation of 'protest' as a mode of performance philosophy's 'doing' is intended to be playful and thought-provoking, the 'freedom of association' is intended to imply the importance of performers and philosophers meeting together within the context of ethical questions and existence. My protest actions will be tableaux vivants relying on the visual power of the solo figure caught up in philosophical gesture and conviction in order to evoke wider concerns. They will pop up unannounced, vary in duration and will not obstruct any of the conference proceedings.

Bio:

Hester Reeve explores physical and conceptual form through art works and the relationship between critical thinking and human agency in everyday life through live art (particularly when that agency is risked through the figure of 'the artist' broadly conceived). She is Reader in Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University and currently artist-in-residence at The Centre for Philosophy and Visual Art, Kings College, London. Recent public works have been staged at Tanzquartier, Vienna, Tate Britain (working under the umbrella of The Emily Davison Lodge with Olivia Plender) and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

