

## ALICE TWEMLOW

---

Alice Twemlow is a design writer, researcher, editor and curator. Her research practice is at the intersection of environmental humanities, design history, and artistic research. She has significant experience in creating and nurturing experimental and public-facing design and research cultures within institutions.

Since 2017, Twemlow has been working on a multi-faceted research project titled 'Design and the Deep Future', that builds on the geological concept of *deep time* to better understand the long-lasting environmental implications of processes, values, and products of the design industry. Twemlow chairs a Research Group which seeks to contribute alternative interpretations, interventions and imaginaries to climate and environmental justice research. Outputs include publications, exhibitions, conferences, a website and teaching packages.

Key terms: art, climate justice, care, collage, critique, curation, design, decolonial futures, deep time, eco-literacies, imaginaries, intersectional feminism, salvage, walking, waste, writing

[alictwemlow@gmail.com](mailto:alictwemlow@gmail.com) /  
+31 (0)6 30 75 21 33 /  
[www.alictwemlow.com](http://www.alictwemlow.com)

---

## **EDUCATION**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2007–2014 | Ph.D (RCA) History of Design, Victoria & Albert Museum / Royal College of Art, London. Supervisors: Prof. Jeremy Aynsley and Prof. David Crowley |
| 1994–1996 | M.A. (RCA) History of Design, Victoria & Albert Museum / Royal College of Art, London  |
| 1991–1994 | B.A. (Hons) English Literature, Bristol University   |

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book-length**

Twemlow, A. (2017). *Sifting the Trash: A History of Design Criticism*. MIT Press.

Twemlow, A (2008). *What is Graphic Design For?* Rotovision

### **Articles, Chapters and Conference Papers**

Twemlow, A. (forthcoming, 2023). 'Space Junk and Moon Trash: Design and its Extraterrestrial Aftermath'. In *Planetary Conversations: Design Beyond the Human*. Eds. Elio Caccavale and Gordon Hush. Routledge.

Twemlow, A. (forthcoming, 2022) 'Troubling Taste: Popular Art in the Museum in 1950s Britain'. Women and Museum Collections Conference 2022, Leiden University Press.

Twemlow, A. (forthcoming, 2022) 'The Essay as Method in Artistic Research'. Expanding the Essay Form in the Arts International Conference. Ghent University. April 27-29 2022.

Twemlow, A. (2022). Review of *Taking a Stand? Debating the Bauhaus and Modernity*. Andrea Bärnreuther (ed.) Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, 2021. *Journal Of Design History*. Oxford University Press.

Twemlow, A. (2021). Introduction, *Design Noir: The Secret Life of Electronic Objects* by Anthony Dunne and Fiona Raby. Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

Twemlow, A. (2021). 'The Wool Ceiling: A Complex Case of Gender and Weaving'. *MacGuffin* No. 9.

Twemlow, A. (2020). 'Compositing the Prospects of Design Education'. In *Updating Values Future DesignEd 2020*. Quodlibet.

Twemlow, A. (2020). Review of *Design for the Writing Mind* by Natalia Ilyin. *Design Issues*, Vol 36, issue 2. MIT Press.

Twemlow, A. (2020). 'Formafantasma's Findings: Researching timber through design'. *Disegno The Quarterly Journal of Design*, 26.

Twemlow, A. (2019). 'Dodging, Dazzling and Divulging'. *Culture is Not Always Popular: Fifteen Years of Design Observer*, MIT Press.

Twemlow, A. (2018). 'Don't Think, Discard!' *Dirty Furniture Journal*.

Twemlow, A. (2018). 'Smiley Faces: The Graphic Language of Electronic Dance Music Promotion'. In *Night Fever: Designing Club Culture*. Vitra Design Museum.

Twemlow, A. (2018). 'Victor Papanek's Design Criticism for the Real World'. In *Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design*. Vitra Design Museum.

Twemlow, A. (2018). 'Museum with Walls: Stedelijk Base installation'. *Disegno The Quarterly Journal of Design*, 18.

Twemlow, A. (2016). 'Graphic Design Research Today'. In *Graphisme en France*. CNAP.

Twemlow, A. (2014). 'The Post-it Note and Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album cover'. In G. Lees-Maffei (Ed.), *Iconic Designs*. Berg/Bloomsbury.

Twemlow, A. (2013). 'Reflections on the *Lolita* Book Cover Project'. In J. Bertram (Ed.), *Lolita, The Story of a Cover Girl*. Print Books.

Twemlow, A. (2012). 'Guaranteed Communications Failure: Consensus Meets Conflict at the International Design Conference at Aspen, 1970'. In M. Beck (Ed.), *The Aspen Complex*. Sternberg Press.

Twemlow, A. (2009). 'I Can't Talk to You If You Say That: An Ideological Collision at The International Design Conference at Aspen, 1970'. *Design & Culture*, v. 1, issue 1.

Twemlow, A. (2009). 'The Evolution of a New Televisual Language: The Sets, Title Sequences and Consumers of Ready Steady Go! 1963–1966'. In C. Frayling and E. King (Eds.), *Popular Design and Entertainment*. Manchester University Press.

Twemlow, A. (2007). 'The Decriminalization of Ornament' and 'The List as a Visual Device and Metaphor in Graphic Design'. In *Looking Closer* 5. Allworth Press.

### **TEACHING AND SUPERVISION**

In addition to roles at The Royal Academy of Art The Hague and University of Amsterdam, Dr. Twemlow has 25 + years of teaching and education management experience in design research, design criticism, design history, and artistic research in a range of international institutions and universities, including:

- ACPA Leiden University, ACPA, 2017-2022, associate professor
- Design Academy Eindhoven, Master Department, Design Curating & Writing, head, 2015-2017
- Vrije University, Design Cultures MA, senior lecturer, 2015-2016
- School of Visual Arts, New York, MA, Design Research, Writing & Criticism, founder and head, 2007-2015
- Monash University, Melbourne, visiting scholar, 2016
- University of the Arts London, visiting professor, 2016-2017
- Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar, Doha, visiting scholar
- Yale University School of Art, New Haven, senior lecturer
- Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, senior lecturer
- Royal College of Art, London, lecturer

She is a sought-after supervisor, and has guided hundreds of Masters theses to completion as well as supervising PhDs and a post-doc.

### **SPEAKING (INVITED)**

Dr. Twemlow is often invited to speak at conferences and events on topics ranging from the future of arts education and museums to the history of design and decorative arts.

In recent years she has delivered keynote talks at: New European Bauhaus; University of Bologna; Vilnius Academy of the Arts; National Museums Scotland; Royal Academy of Arts, London; Design History Society Conference 2019; Amsterdam Design Centre; ArtEZ, Arnhem; Tate Modern, London; Academy of Art and *Design* FHNW, Basel; Monash University, Melbourne; Falmouth University, UK; University of the Arts London; Dutch Design History Symposium.

Some recent and upcoming invited speaking engagements:

- 'A Taste of Europe', discussion about Europe's self-imaging, with architect Rem Koolhaas and politicians Marietje Schaake and Pascal Lamy, de Balie, Amsterdam, May 2022
- 'Pedagogy on the Page', 100 Years of Reyner Banham, Architectural Association, London, March 2022
- 'Lunar Artefacts', Moon Gallery Launch, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, March 2022
- 'Instadeep: Seams and Ruptures in Human-Geological Time in Art and Design Research', Leiden University, March 2022
- 'Repair and Care Critical Collaging Workshop', Connecting Cultures, Associazione Culturale, Milan, February 2022
- 'Writing Into, Through, and With Artistic Research in Relation to Climate Futures', Artistic Research Research Group, University of Amsterdam, February 2022

Twemlow has organized many conferences during her career, ranging from large-scale events for 3,000+ participants in the US, to intimate and focused discussion forums. In the Netherlands, they include:

- 'Fault Lines: KABK Research Symposium', Royal Academy of Art The Hague, 2017-2021 (with formats including Zoom studio visits and online research tours to The Research Question, a radio show where students interview their professors about research, and a livestreamed TV Talk Show)
- 'Redesigning the Designer' symposium, 2019, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam
- 'Is This Thing On? The Public Dimensions of Artistic Research' ACPA Conference, 2018, Leiden University.

## **SERVICE**

- Selected representative for the Netherlands to European Central Bank in Theme Advisory Group for Redesign of Euros, 2021-2024
- Steering committee member, Kunst Onderzoek Lectoren Platform (Artistic Research Readerships Platform), 2020-
- Guest critic for Pre-PhD and PD programme, Groningen, 2022
- External Examiner, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, MA Graphic Design & Communication, 2019-2023
- External Examiner, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, BA Visual Culture, 2018-2021
- External Evaluator, European University Cyprus, Art and Design, 2021
- Critical Friend, Research Institute, Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam, 2019-2022
- Visiting Critic, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania, Artistic Research, 2019
- Juror, Design History Society Writing Award, 2022

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Twemlow's most recent media appearance was for NPO Radio 1 on 4 January, 2022, when she was asked to explain the process of the 2024 euro redesign, for which she is a committee member representing the Netherlands. She has also appeared on ABC Radio National, Australia, as a featured interviewee and has been interviewed multiple times for podcasts, newspapers and other publications.

## **AWARDS**

- Simon Mari Pruys Prize for Design Criticism, 2019
- Design History Society Writing Award, 2018
- Graham Foundation Grant Recipient for *Sifting the Trash*, 2015