



Photo: Valerie Bennett (www.valeriebennett.com)

Will Self and the Art of the Contemporary

Saturday 23 March 2013
**University of Roehampton,
London**

Keynotes:

Jeannette Baxter
(Anglia Ruskin University)

M. Hunter Hayes (Texas A&M
University-Commerce USA)

Will Self will be reading from work in progress and talking about his extensive body of work during a special public event part of the Barbican's and Wellcome Trust's Wonder Talks Festival at the Museum of London

Will Self is one of the most notorious and exciting contemporary writers as well as one of Britain's most visible public intellectuals. Self is astoundingly prolific, has written across many different genres and is our foremost literary satirist, whose linguistic pyrotechnics and surreal conceits give an idiosyncratic and highly illuminating perspective on the world today. As psychogeographer and provocateur Self has staked out the world as his territory, drawing our attention to the surreal and grotesque within everyday life. This conference presents a unique opportunity to reflect on the significance of Self's achievements, bringing together the foremost critics working on contemporary fiction.

Short papers and panels are invited on aspects of Self's writing focusing on topics including the work's relation to genre, intertextuality and form; (post)modernism and new realism; political and cultural geography and the contemporary; satire and surrealism; place, psychogeography and the urban environment; (semi-)documentary fiction/gonzo and life-writing; mental illness, psyche and consciousness; gender, sexuality and alterity; morality and ethics; class, Englishness and Otherness.

Includes a public event at the Museum of London

Send abstracts for papers of 250 words, together with a brief biographical note, to Nick Lavery at the email address below, before 28 February 2013. Requests for early notification of acceptance for international delegates are welcome. For further information and registration details, please contact:

Conference organiser, **Nick Lavery**, English and Creative Writing, University of Roehampton, London, SW15 5PU.

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