

LECTURE

ARCHITECTURE LECTURE SERIES
2021, UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

EMMA CHEATLE

Writing architecture nearby – spatial stories of bodies, health and care



*Interior of the Gynaecology Clinic, Maison de Verre (Pierre Chareau 1928–32).
Photograph Emma Cheatle, 2008. With permission of Robert Rubin.*

FRIDAY MAY 21, 2021

19.00 - 20.00 (CET +1)

ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT

ZOOM LINK:

<https://ucy.zoom.us/j/93963033785?pwd=NnV5Z2ZHTXE4U1IOTUc5dzFOZjgvdz09>

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Writing architecture nearby – spatial stories of bodies, health and care

In this talk I will trace the methodology that I have evolved to write about subjects that are historically left out of architectural and urban history, theory and humanities discourse, namely the subjects of the gendered body, health and care. I will begin with a revisiting of my 2017 book Part-Architecture: The Maison de Verre, Duchamp, Domesticity and Desire in 1930s Paris, that was developed out of my PhD research undertaken at the Bartlett, UCL. Here, making new kinds of analyses of a modernist iconic building, I was interested primarily in how the building constructed attitudes towards sexuality and women's health. From this, travelling through my more recent research on histories of spaces of lying-in and maternal practices, and new research on embodied 'storying' of spatial health and care, I will draw out my combined interdisciplinary methodology of close observation through drawing and looking, and archival and literary research with creative and embodied writing. This research practice continues to be closely aligned to the material it analyses, namely spaces of health and care, and the bodies that use and inhabit them.

EMMA CHEATLE



Dr Emma Cheatle trained as an architect and has a PhD in architecture from the Bartlett, UCL. Her research is interdisciplinary and examines the political, cultural and social implications of architecture, art and urban space, addressing issues of inequality, health, and gender. Her monograph *Part-Architecture*, a complex architectural humanities project, uses critical writing, creative writing and drawn analysis of the building the Maison de Verre and the artwork the Large Glass, and places new primary and archival material on them in the context of social, sexual and medical history of 1920s and 30s Paris. Her postdoctoral research, also a forthcoming book, examined the spatial histories of lying-in and maternal practices. She is working on a new research project on embodied 'storying' of spatial health and care using ethnography, participatory arts and new historical analysis. with Hélène Frichot she is editing a major retrospective on the feminist theorist Jennifer Bloomer for the *Journal of Architecture*. She is the UK Editor for the Bloomsbury Global Encyclopaedia of Women in Architecture 1960–2015 (2021).