



Lisa Le Feuvre
interviewed by Marco Scotti

Around failures



Lisa Le Feuvre is a curator, writer, and editor. Between 2010 and 2017 she was Head of Sculpture Studies at the Henry Moore Institute, a part of the Henry Moore Foundation. She led a program of education, research, publications and exhibitions, and the development of the Leeds sculpture and collection archive. Previously Le Feuvre taught on the post-graduate Curatorial Program at Goldsmiths College, led the contemporary art program at the National Maritime Museum and was Course Director of the post-graduate program in Arts Policy and Management at Birkbeck College, University of London. She has sat on various juries including Sculpture Dublin (2021), Arnaldo Pomodoro Foundation Prize (2019), the Turner Prize (2018), Hepworth Prize for Sculpture (2016), British representation at the Venice Biennale (2015), the Max Mara Prize for Women (2013), and co-curated the quinquennial exhibition British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet (2009-10).

Since we started to do research on unrealised art projects, her studies on *failure* have been a model and an inspiration. Starting from the critical anthology she edited for the Whitechapel series of Documents of contemporary art and from her article 'Art Failure', published in 2008 in Art Monthly, we invited her for an interview to discuss how to find spaces of freedom to celebrate projects which never came to light, and how to exhibit an ephemeral and unfinished project, so that it can be part of a space of critical engagement.

We consider the concept of failure as a tool to approach and study contemporary practices, that allows us to move between utopias and concrete problems regarding the art system, between the Avant Garde and contemporary experimentations, between design culture and impossible tasks. The conversation has been an opportunity to re-think about spaces of uncertainty today in curatorial and artistic practices, discussing the nature of unrealised projects, their potential as set of ideas that can happen.

Lisa Le Feuvre is currently inaugural Executive Director of Holt/Smithson Foundation, an artist-endowed foundation dedicated to the creative legacies of artists Nancy Holt (1938-2014) and Robert Smithson (1938-73): this interview has been also an incredible opportunity to discuss about the artists' unrealised projects, how to complete abandoned projects and the purpose of such an important institution.

Marco Scotti

