



*Roy Voss, The Way Things Are (2017).*

*Courtesy of the artist and De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill*

## The idea of a pier : An introduction to conceptual and installation art by **Professor Maria Chester**

26th April, 10 –12noon  
Henry Travers Studio, The Maltings,  
Eastern Lane, Berwick TD15 1AJ

From the last half of the 20th century to the present, contemporary art has had many forms of expression. "Installation art" is used to describe large-scale, mixed media constructions in which the public can interact with the work of art. Installation is a form of conceptual art in which "the concept" is used to cause an impact on the viewer. It is considered ephemeral, often designed for a specific place, and it is used by artists who would like to create a change of attitude in our society to a specific issue. Conceptual art and installations emerged in the 1970s, but the idea could be traced back to artists such as Marcel Duchamp with his readymade "Fountain" (1917) and the avant-garde Dada exhibitions in Berlin, vilified by the Nazi regime which considered all this sort of artwork "degenerate".

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Installations are not sculptures in the traditional sense. Installations are not “assemblages” in which artists like Robert Rauschenberg created compositions with everyday items called “found objects”. We shall briefly review the work of British artists such as Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin and analyse the work of Roy Voss on display at the Gymnasium Gallery.

Maria’s lecture on the origins and development of conceptual art and installations from Black Mountain College in the U.S. to Britain today will be held from 10 –11am in the Henry Travers Studio, to be followed by coffee in the Maltings cafe (pre - ordered, included in the price). At 11.20 we will invite the audience to walk over to the Gymnasium Gallery, where a new exhibition features an installation sculpture by Roy Voss. After a short introduction to the exhibition by James Lowther there will be time to view the sculpture and Maria and James will be there to answer questions. The session will finish at 12 noon.

The cost of the lecture is £6 including refreshments. All are welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.

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(Pier)

