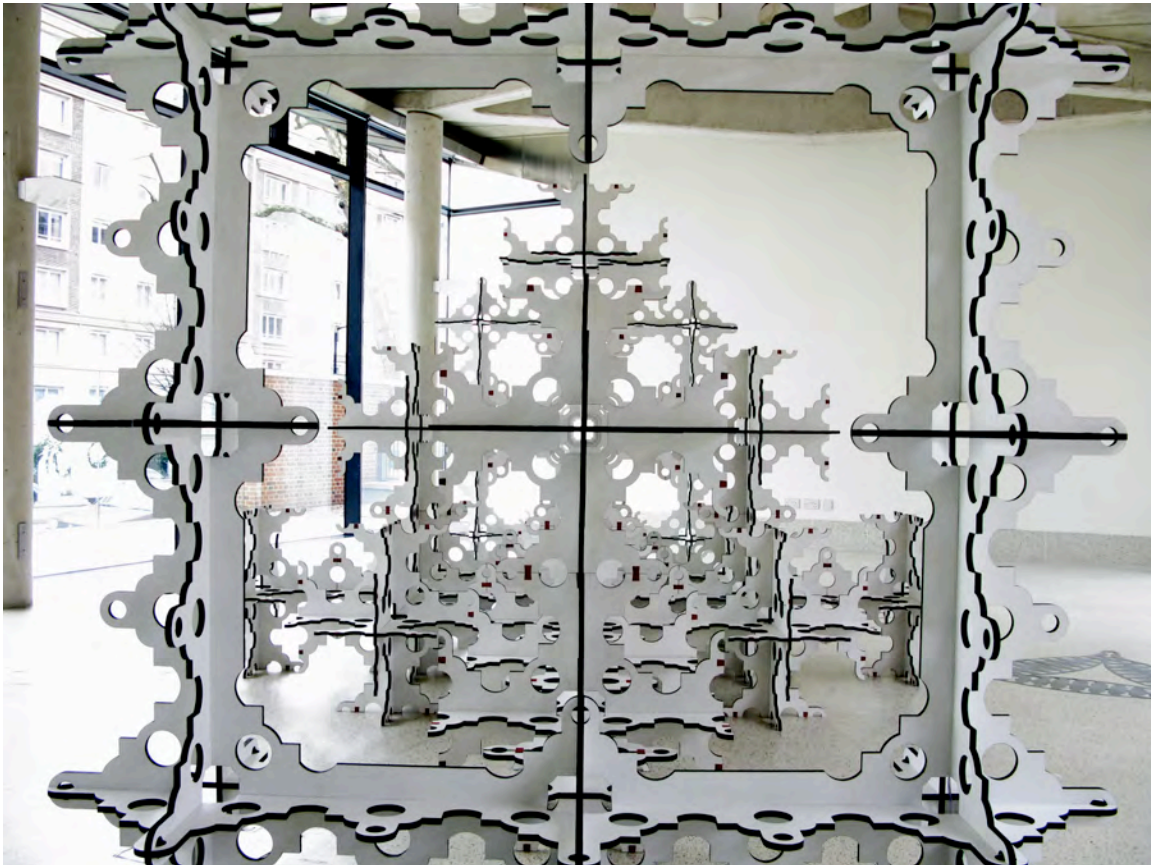


CRYPTOSPHERE SYMPOSIUM

To mark the closing of the exhibition and completion of the first artist residency
at the Royal Geographical Society with IBG, London
Friday 9 May 2008



During his 15 month residency, Simeon Nelson investigated thousands of the Society's extensive map collection dating back to the fifteenth century. He focused on maps that consider mythical places as physical locations and the evolution of Western cartography.

This symposium will consist of a talk by the artist in front of his installation and presentations by [Dr Alessandro Scafi](#), Warburg Institute and University of Bologna and [Professor Felix Driver](#), Department of Geography, Royal Holloway College, University of London. A panel discussion will follow moderated by [Dr Catherine Souch](#), Head of Higher Education and Research at the RGS-IBG. Drinks and refreshments will be provided.

The symposium will look at the motivations of the artist and his experience at the RGS-IBG as artist in residence. Nelson is interested in what he describes as the 'Cryptosphere', which he perceives as, 'the sum of all withheld and hidden information in a given system'. He has developed new body of work, specifically locating the mythological and ornamental within the physical and temporal world: Paradise, Utopia and Hell are addressed alongside the development of cartography as a science via a large gallery installation in which a cartographically-inspired architectural grid attempts to contain ambiguous ornaments that, unwilling to be held by the grid's rigid embrace, spill out over the pavilion floor.

Programme

- 2.00 Arrival and registration
- 2.30 Welcome to RGS-IBG and introduction from Steve Brace, Head of Education and Outdoor Learning
- 2.35 Simeon Nelson artist talk in the Exhibition Pavilion
- 3.30 Map viewing in Foyle Reading Room and tea break
- 4.15 Talk: Prof. Felix Driver,
- 4.45 Talk: Dr Alessandro Scafi
- 5.15 Panel discussion on issues raised with Q & A chaired by Dr Catherine Souch
- 6.00 Drinks
- 6.30 Finish

To book a place please contact Vandana Patel
v.patel@rgs.org or 020 7591 3052

Copies of the [Cryptosphere](#) book will be on sale

For further information please go to:

<http://www.rgs.org/HomePage.htm>

<http://www.simeon-nelson.com/cryptosphere.html>

<http://www.parabolatrust.org/residencies/cryptosphere.html>

<http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday/Issues.php>

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Royal Geographical Society with IBG
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