

# POROSITY STUDIO

## BY THE THROAT

Seeking a nexus between Glasgow and Edinburgh

Edinburgh University  
31 March - 11 April 2008  
Entries close 30 January 2008

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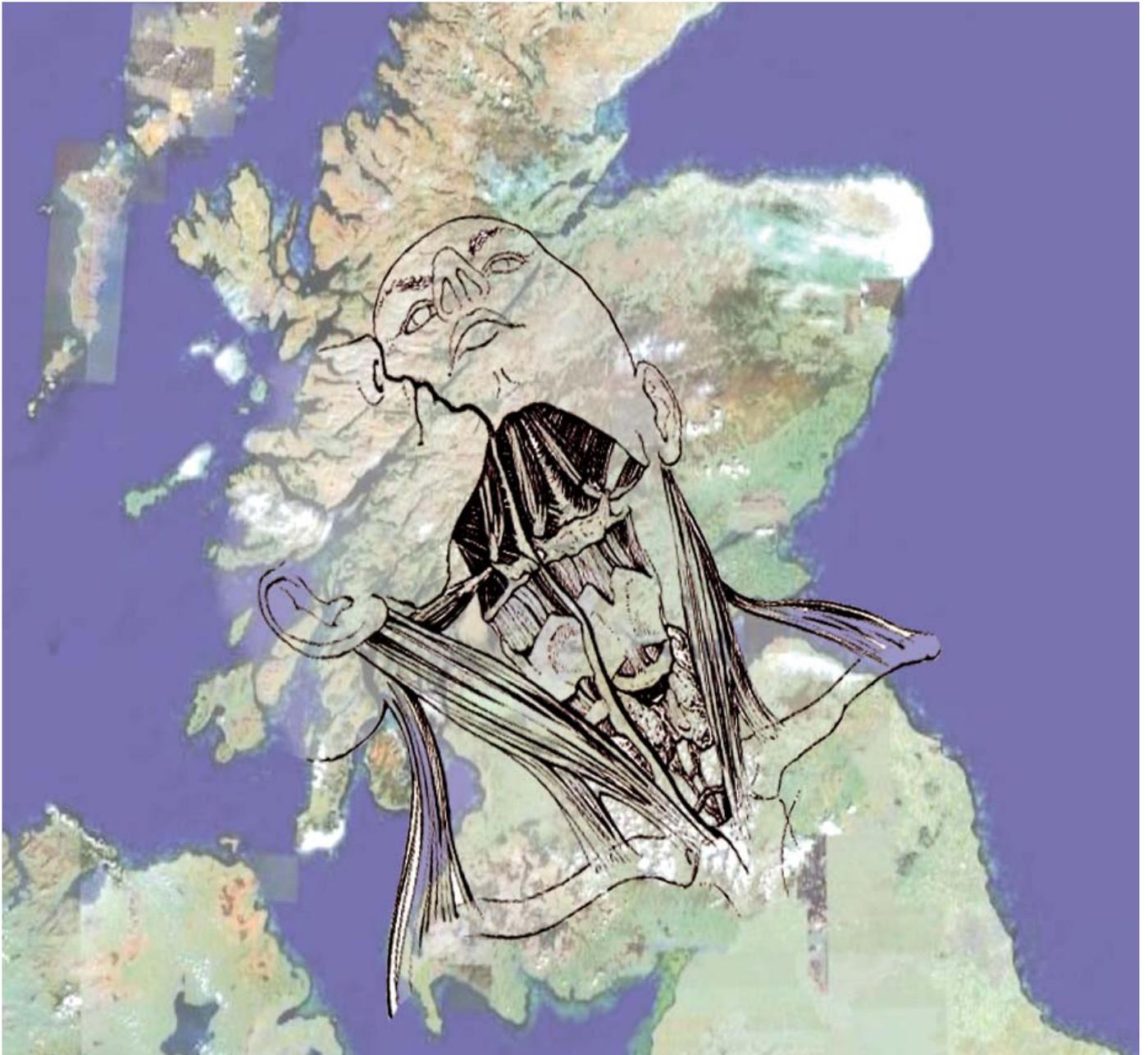
THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN COLLABORATION WITH POROSITY STUDIO,  
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, UNSW AND EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY  
present

**BY THE THROAT**  
Seeking a nexus between Glasgow and Edinburgh  
March 31 – April 12 2008



**By The Throat:** A multi-disciplinary studio which explores the city and body seeking new connections which reach beyond known envelopes and proprieties.

**The British Council will offer full cost scholarships for successful applicants to this studio, giving students from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and New Zealand the opportunity to have all travel, daily expenses and accommodation paid. This studio is being offered to 60 students in all, including 30 from the United Kingdom, 15 from Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore and New Zealand and 15 from Australia. Australian students will be selected after interviews with a panel including Richard Goodwin and representatives of the British Council in Australia and the College of Fine Arts University of New South Wales.**



The British Council and the Porosity Studio directed by Professor Richard Goodwin, will hold an international studio combining students and practitioners from the visual arts, architecture, urban planning, design, and engineering in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Previous Porosity studios have been held in Beijing at The Central Academy of Fine Art, Rotterdam at The Willem De Kooning Institute, Den Haag at Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten, and Milan at the Milan Politecnico.

This studio will build on the success of the previous studios in collaboration with the Edinburgh University Faculty of Architecture and the assistance of the British Council. Stephen Cairns, from the Architecture Faculty of the University of Edinburgh will collaborate with Richard Goodwin, the Porosity Studio and the British Council on the running and development of the program and project.



**By the Throat** forms part of the British Council's Creative Cities project - a three year cultural and artistic partnership between East Asia and the UK to develop creative cities with successful knowledge economies where global citizens can thrive. This will be one of 3 British studios over 3 years, which aims to support the professional development of the next generation of designers, architects, and visual artists through collaborative work on design briefs in UK cities. After 3 years there will be a network of 180 of the most talented future city-builders in Asia Pacific, East Asia and Europe, who have developed lasting international relationships which they will draw on as they create the cities of the future.

### **The Project:**

The Porosity studio uses real sites and projects as armatures for ideas about the body and the city which can be applied to other situations. Both collaboration and adherence to the specific problem always remain optional within the studio. What characterises the program is its pursuit of innovation at a variety of scales and equal power given to all disciplines.

"By the Throat" is exploring the possible connections between Glasgow city and Edinburgh city at the very neck of the United Kingdom. Whether this is a linear city or complex urban coagulation will be explored in conjunction with another existing project for the masterplan of Leigh Docklands in Edinburgh. Combining these two existing problems creates dual metaphors of neck and mouth insinuating the body into the equation. The choice of macro or micro scales of research will be the choice of each student or future collaborative groups. Students are encouraged to bring their expertise and lines of enquiry into the project and perhaps test these devices at another scale and with other students.

## Program

The studio will be held at the University of Edinburgh, Faculty of Architecture between the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2008 and the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Students will work in inter-disciplinary international teams, modelling the intercultural environments they will be working in during their professional careers.

The studio will include 10 full days over 2 weeks and conclude with an exhibition, full colour printed catalogue and DVD film. The resulting exhibition will tour to participating countries in 2008/9.

Students interested in applying for a position within the studio will be expected to present a portfolio of work to the panel at a time to be determined.

Application forms can be downloaded from [www.britishcouncil.org.au](http://www.britishcouncil.org.au) and should be completed and returned to [grainne.brunsdon@britishcouncil.org.au](mailto:grainne.brunsdon@britishcouncil.org.au) by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

## Research Questions

How can we connect two separate entities of the organism of the United Kingdom?

How can this structure form a model for other connections within the United Kingdom?

How can these ideas form the basis of a new city structure for Edinburgh?

Can this thinking be applied to public space and its structures alone?

What role does public art play in this equation?

What role does object design play in this equation?

What role does engineering play in this equation?

The student or student groups can attack these provocations and this particular site as a laboratory at any scale they wish and with any medium.

This studio embraces all approaches and scales of operation in respect to the governing problem. From urban infrastructure to object making and the body, **By the Throat** is in the business of finding new ideas and approaches via individual actions, conversation and collaboration.

The studio is also hoping to attract some practitioners in all fields who are already experimenting with digital modelling and within software modes which combine this modelling with architectural documentation and engineering resolution simultaneously. Data modelling software is at the forefront of transforming design within certain disciplines. However it is also in the nature of this studio to at all times combine this modelling and thinking with the act of physical model making and drawing.

**By the Throat** is essentially a studio whose ideas are accelerated by model making. Fundamental to the overall philosophy of the studio are the principals of transformation, sustainability of design, a commitment to understanding and questioning public space in relation to private space and the primacy of art or poetic thinking.

## **Background to the British Council**

The British Council is the UK's leading cultural relations agency. We work in 109 countries around the world to strengthen relationship between the UK and other countries.

We're working to create new relationships between the UK and partners in thirteen countries in the Asia Pacific and East Asia region. Our main strategic regional theme for this programme is Pacific and the UK to develop creative cities with successful knowledge economies.

This will be the century of the city – and nowhere more so than in East Asia, where every month two million more people are living in cities. The distinctive personality of the **creative** city helps more people to think, plan and act creatively, to grasp opportunities and solve problems inventively.

We're going to support the development of the essential features of creative cities – openness, networks, effective leadership at all levels, good design and creative entrepreneurship –through seven related programmes, in addition to this series of studios:

**Re-imagining the City** – film and music events that reveal visions of future cities through the eyes of film-makers, designers and artists

**Creative Communities** – to support the development of cultural leadership at a community level

**Transforming Public Spaces** – visual arts collaborations to improve the quality of our physical environments

**Creative Entrepreneurs** – professional development programmes, study visits to the UK and networks

**Inclusive Design** – projects to improve the quality of life for all citizens with an emphasis on people with disabilities

**Cultural Dialogues** – exploring the impact of migration and new identities on cities and how we can develop intercultural understanding (and new forms of creative expression) through the arts

**Creative City Leadership** – professional development for the people who run our cities

Participants from Australia will be invited to take part in all of these programmes.

## Background to the Porosity Studio

### PROF. RICHARD GOODWIN

My vision for the city is bound up in the idea of architecture as a process of becoming rather than a grid of pedestal objects. I am interested in the parasitic structures of connection, between public and private zones, and how they might be theoretically framed and accelerated in production. I see the city as a landscape, a three-dimensional journey, and believe in the dissolution of architecture, as we know it.

In 2000, I established the "Porosity Studio" at the College of Fine Arts, UNSW. This group of practitioners and students forms a think-tank to explore all ideas associated with public space and to establish a model for a future Research Centre within COFA UNSW.

I received a 3-year Australian Research Council Discovery Grant in 2003 to test my own works in this field. The title of this research is:

***Porosity: The revision of public space in the city using public art to test the functional boundaries of built form.***

This research tested the functional boundaries ascribed to the physical dimensions of public space in the city. It did this via the device of public art and the procedure of comprehensive mapping of both internal and external spaces in Sydney.

The term "*porosity*" describes the nature of the edge condition, which exists between the skin of architecture and the public space of the city.



Cover Image:

Lanza, B et al, *Le Cere Anatomiche della Specola*, photo by Liberto Perugi, Arnaud, Firenze, 1979