This open talk will focus on the retrieval and organisation of the archives of two arts centres in Glasgow – the Third Eye Centre and the Centre for Contemporary Arts (1975-the present). Within the context of a city emerging as a recognised hub for contemporary art, the need to have a memory of past activities only gradually became apparent. The archival process, however, raised a host of questions that reflect the role of the archive and memory in contemporary curatorial and artistic practice.

Curator Francis McKee is the director of the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow (CCA), and a research fellow at The Glasgow School of Art. His research interests include the exploration of open source theory as a potential economic model within the arts, the role of the archive in contemporary art, and modes of curatorial practice.

In 2005 McKee created the first Glasgow International biennial and curated three iterations of it. He has curated a number of exhibitions including This Peaceful War, The Jumex Collection for the first Glasgow International in 2005; Zenomap (together with Kay Pallister), the presentation of new work from Scotland for the Venice Biennale in 2003; and he was one of the curators invited to contribute in Lyon Biennale 2007. Previously, Francis worked as a historian of medicine for the Wellcome Trust and as Head of Programme at CCA.

For the past fifteen years he has written extensively on the work of artists such as Christine Borland, Willie Docherty, Ross Sinclair, Douglas Gordon, Matthew Barney, Simon Starling, Catherine Yass, Joao Penalva, Kathy Prendergast and Pipilotti Rist.

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