

**University of Aberdeen  
History of Art Research Seminar**

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012  
4pm, Auris Lecture Theatre, 23 St. Marchar Drive**

**Dr. Alan Marcus (Aberdeen)**

'Guernica reconsidered in the light of day'. This talk will include a screening of the 30min film, *One Market Day* (2011).



When in April 1937 bombs fell in a well-planned attack on Gernika during the Spanish Civil War, it took only a few hours to destroy the small, ancient town. Its importance as the symbolic centre of Basque culture was magnified by Pablo Picasso's decision to create a representation of the event on an enormous canvas. As it toured the world to raise funds for the Republican cause, *Guernica* swiftly became an iconic work, symbolising the inhumanity of this new form of terrorism through total war. Its politicized stature was further raised by the lengthy wait before it was sent by MOMA to Spain in 1981, and the 2003 debacle over the shrouding of its replica in the UN headquarters. Last year's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its return to Spain was marked by protest in the Basque country, and their repeated requests for its exhibition at the Guggenheim in Bilbao, or in Gernika itself. Questions posed in this talk and subtextually in the film, *One Market Day* (2011), concern the relationship of a work of art to the place it represents. In what respect does the reinvention and transfiguration of a post-traumatic urban space correspond to its stature of place through visual enquiry and memorialisation?

**Dr. Alan Marcus** is Reader in Film and Visual Culture at the University of Aberdeen. His recent practice-as-research film on Gernika, *One Market Day* (2011), is a counterpart to the film made in Hiroshima, *One Hot Day* (2011), on the theme of post-traumatic urban space.