Sessions at The EU and the Politicization of Europe (Prague, 27–28 Nov 15)

The European Union and the Politicization of Europe conference, Anglo-American University, Prague, Czech Republic, Nov 27–28, 2015
Deadline: Oct 15, 2015

H-ArtHist Redaktion

Call for Papers for the Panels:

[1] Urban Transformations
[2] Art as Cultural Diplomacy

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[1]

From: Cristina Ciucurescu <office@euroacademia.eu>

Subject: CFP: Urban Transformations, Transition and Change in European Urban Image Construction

Elasticity of the label identity accommodates everything that does and does not surround us, thus finding its place in every discourse on making and re-making, invention and re-invention, destruction and construction. Every transition is synonymous with said processes, be it a tectonic change or a peaceful shift. As political systems and countries disintegrate and new ones rise, as they become more entangled in the global hyperspace, their skin changes in a manner of theatrical scenery change after each act, sometimes with discrete adaptation, sometimes with radical interventions. If the scenery is composed of streets, parks, roads, museums, monuments, shopping malls and buildings connected through the intricate network of the perpetual and cumulative actions of its inhabitants and the burden of their existence, if this setting is a city, every adaptation and intervention affects its multi-dimensional identities. However, can one speak of an identity of the urban space in the singular form?
As the chaotic canvases of cities are being stretched over a framework of identity, its further exploration seems more than appropriate. Amidst the incredibly rapid urban growth crowding more than half of the world population in towns and cities, the questions are only going to keep multiplying. How are city identities made and re-made, used and abused, imagined and narrated, politicised and communicated, expressed and projected, imposed and marketed? And above all, how do they thrive within the dynamic interpolation of the nexus of East-West, Europe-Balkans, centre-periphery, urban – suburban, old and new. As out-dated as these dichotomies sound, in many places their daily life is far from over. As old cities became new capitals and new capitals struggle for more capital, the challenges of maintaining state-driven collective identities in the face of cultural fragmentation and diversification, coupled with consumer-attractiveness is turning them into urban palimpsest. This transformation is ever more complex in the cities of Central, Eastern and South-eastern Europe. In these last decades, during the period of socio-political and cultural deconstruction, the redefinitions of their urban space reflect the need to

refashion, consolidate or even establish their new/old identities. Flooded with imported ‘non-places’, (not) dealing with the material legacy of memories of the recent past that seem unable to resolve, trying to accept or reject the rest of Europe in the race towards ‘Europeanization’, these cities adopt different approaches in their aim to resemble and at the same time, differ. Zagreb generously welcomed its marketing nickname "pocket size Vienna", while regenerating itself with the mega Museum of Contemporary Art tailored up to an imagined ‘Western European’ standard. Skopje’s attention seeking project transformed the ‘open city of solidarity’ into a literal national identity construction site. The list goes on. Queuing to win the old continent’s capital of culture contest and eager to squeeze into the ever-enlarging itinerary of the consumerist Grand Tour, the only thing cities are not allowed to be, is invisible. As the research on cultural identities of the city is becoming more abundant, this panel aims at adopting a wide-lens inter-disciplinary approach, while focusing on various transitional processes affecting identities in the urban context in its global-regional-national-local interplay.

Some example of topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Collective memory, identity and urban image construction
- Appropriation, instrumentalisation and functualisation of public space
- Contemporary nomadism and the city as a common denominator for collective identities
- Architecture as ‘politics with bricks and mortar’
- Is there a new rise of the city-state?
- Urban regeneration projects, landmark buildings and ‘starchitects’
- Non-places and (non)identities
- Immigrants and the cultural identity of cities
- City marketing and city branding
- European capitals of culture and European identity
- Identity creation and the cultural offer of the city
- Urban cultural heritage as identity-anchor
- Creative changes of the cities
- Art and industry in urban development
- Urban aesthetics
- Ugliness, kitsch and value in shaping contemporary urban spaces
- East-West nexuses in European urban development
- Selective urban memorialization through monuments and symbolic architecture
- The future of urban visual identities

Please apply on-line on the conference website or submit abstracts of less than 300 words together with the details of affiliation by 15th of October 2015 to application@euroacademia.eu

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[2]

From: Cristina Ciucurescu <office@euroacademia.eu>

Subject: CFP: Art as Cultural Diplomacy: (Re)Constructing Notions of Eastern and Western Europe

Panel Organizer: Cassandra Sciortino, University of California, Santa Barbara

The panel "Art as cultural diplomacy" seeks papers that explore the function of art (in its broadest defini-

tion) as an instrument of cultural diplomacy by the state and, especially, by nongovernmental actors. The main theme of the session is the question of art and diplomacy in Europe before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Papers are welcome which explore issues related to the role of art, diplomacy and the politicization of the European Union and its candidate countries, as are those which consider how the arts have pursued or resisted East-West dichotomies and other narratives of alterity in Europe and worldwide. The panel seeks to combine a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives to explore how art--its various practices, history, and theory--are an important area of inquiry in the expanding field of cultural diplomacy.

Some examples of topics include:

- How can art serve as a neutral platform for exchange to promote dialogue and understanding between foreign states?
- How can art, including organized festivals (i.e. film, art, music.), cultivate transnational identities that undermine dichotomies of East and West, and other narratives of alterity in Europe and beyond it?
- The implications for art as an instrument of diplomacy in a postmodern age where geopolitics and power are increasingly mobilized by image based structures of persuasion
- How has/can art facilitate cohesion between European Union member states and candidate states that effectively responds to the EU's efforts to create "unity in diversity."
- The politics of mapping Europe: mental and cartographic
- Community based art as a social practice to engage issues of European identity
- The difference between art as cultural diplomacy and propaganda
- The digital revolution and the emergence of social media as platforms for art to communicate across social, cultural, and national boundaries?
- Diplomacy in the history of art in Europe and Eastern Europe
- Artists as diplomats
- Art history as diplomacy--exhibitions, post-colonial criticism, global art history, and other revisions to the conventional boundaries of Europe and its history of art
- The international activity of cultural institutes

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For full details of the conference and on-line application please see:
http://euroacademia.eu/conference/european-union-and-the-politicization-of-europe-4th-edition/

Reference:
CFP: Sessions at The EU and the Politicization of Europe (Prague, 27-28 Nov 15). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 21, 2015 (accessed Nov 7, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/11002>.