

Panel at MSA: The Canonisation of Modernism (Amsterdam, 10–13 Aug 17)

Amsterdam, Aug 10–13, 2017

Deadline: Dec 20, 2016

Gregor Langfeld

Call for Papers:

The Canonisation of Modernism

Panel at Modernist Studies Association 2017 Conference – Amsterdam

Panel convenors:

Dr. Gregor Langfeld, University of Amsterdam: g.m.langfeld@uva.nl

Dr. Tessel M. Bauduin, University of Amsterdam: t.m.bauduin@uva.nl

Art historians and other scholars are familiar with “the canon” of modern and modernist art, but how did such a canon come to be? This panel will investigate processes and trajectories of canonisation, tracing their influence on the understanding of Modernism to the present day. We consider practices such as marginalisation, exclusion, or negation of certain artists and movements implicit in the construction of “the canon” as well. The aim of this session is to uncover how actors—such as artists, collectors, gallerists, educators, patrons, curators, art historians, critics—on the art scene influenced the reception and assessment of Modernism (including the avant-gardes). We aim to expose and investigate the role and influence of specific groups, institutions, and networks on the formation of taste. Particular attention will be paid to which discourses competed with each other in the arena of the canon.

We seek papers that address questions such as:

- Why, when and where were modernist art works, artists, and movements (from fin-de-siècle to the 1960s) considered to be canonical and others not?
- How were art works, artists, movements canonised, de-canonised, or marginalised?
- Who and which institutions were responsible for assessing art works, artists and movements, and, in what way?
- How did social and political power relations play out in these processes of canonisation and marginalisation, e.g. in national(ist), totalitarian, (post-)colonial or global contexts?

We invite papers on all disciplines of the visual arts, and welcome theoretical and reception historical perspectives as well as case studies on specific actors, art works, movements.

Send a paper proposal of ca. 300 words to both:

Dr. Gregor Langfeld g.langfeld@uva.nl and to dr. Tessel M. Bauduin t.m.bauduin@uva.nl

by 20 December 2016.

Include with your abstract: a title; full name, affiliation, email address; a brief bio; and a shortlist of (most relevant) publications.

Early career researchers are welcome to apply.

More information on the 2017 Modernist Studies Association Conference Modernism Today can be found here: <https://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa19/index.html>

Reference:

CFP: Panel at MSA: The Canonisation of Modernism (Amsterdam, 10-13 Aug 17). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 24, 2016 (accessed Jan 3, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/13977>>.