# Multiple Modernisms (Humlebæk, 2-3 Nov 17)

Humlebæk, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Nov 2–03, 2017
Deadline: May 26, 2017

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Call for papers:

”Multiple Modernisms: a symposium on globalism in postwar art”

2–3 November 2017

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
Gammel Strandvej 13
3050 Humlebæk
Denmark
www.louisiana.dk

Organized by Louisiana Research as part of the program Multiple Modernities.
Deadline: May 26th 2017.

Introduction
Recent years have heralded a paradigm shift in the way we think about modernity and aesthetic modernism as expressed in notions of multiple modernities (Eisenstadt 2000), global modernisms, and even planetary modernisms (Friedman 2015). In particular, the crucial years of the mid-20th century after the demarcation line of 1945 have been subject to reassessment and new interest in academic studies as well as in curatorial activities. The canonical understanding of the formation of new artistic paradigms during this period have been enriched by addressing parallel artistic shifts from a global perspective and how these alternatively depart or are informed by the former.

This posits a central challenge for academic art history as well as for museums of modern and contemporary art: How to understand the heritage of twentieth century art in the contemporary, globalized reality?
We propose to see the postwar era as a key moment in the globalization of art with new contexts and circulations, as well as divides and controversies. This points to the significance of the postwar era and new conceptions of modernism, but also raises questions. Why is this happening now, is modernity multiple, and how can a multiple modernism be presented in the museum and how can it be researched? The aim of the conference is to pool ideas around this remarkable field and put forward possible answers and establish roads ahead: for art history as well as for the exhibition world.

The conference
Louisiana invites art-historical academics as well as museum professionals and curators for a two-day exchange of research and critical debate on global modernism(s). The aim of this international conference is to rethink the arts, artists, museums and mechanisms and movements of the postwar art world 1945-1970 in light of global orientations through presentations by leading researchers, as well as by emerging scholars. The program will combine keynote lectures with shorter presentations selected through an internationally distributed open call. The conference will be supplemented by a master class and young researcher's colloquium for Ph.D. students.

The starting point for the conference is how the world must be seen as more consistently modernized after 1945 in political, social, geographical and cultural ways – and as in much closer contact with global contemporaneity. We are thus encouraging analyses of the arts as different expressions of a fundamentally modernized world, as vision as well as condition, especially in the globalized sense of modernism embedded in (multiple) modernity; of art engaged in modern world-making, not outside it, with the complexities, controversies and questions this implies.
The Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, founded in 1958, forms an especially relevant and inspiring for the discussion of the postwar era as horizon for today.

Call for papers
In addition to keynote lectures and panel discussions, the organization welcomes papers for presentations as contributions to this conference. These can take the form of theoretical founded contributions, historical research as well as presentations of curatorial work and practice-based research, in relation to the following topics:

NEW CITIES – NEW LOCATIONS: This section will consider how new geographies and the spatial connections they engendered challenged the status of privileged old-world metropolis. Which cities and sites can re-direct our attention towards alternative narratives of modernity?

TRAVEL AND MIGRATION: Art history and musealization tend to create regular places for artists and phenomena. But what about the journeys, exiles, and migrations of individuals as well as groups, objects and ideas?

COMMENSURABILITY – INCOMMENSURABILITY: The question of commensurability between the manifold phenomena is central and inevitable: Was pop art really global? Can we speak of one modernism, or of alternative or multiple modernisms?

CRISIS, FAILURE AND THREAT: Besides new horizons and optimism, the era also involved experiences of crisis, disillusionments and failures, it is our intention to scrutinize these and assess the effects they had on the production of art.

PANEL OF CURATOR'S TALKS: Curating the Postwar era for the Present

The call for papers for this conference is open to both institutional and independent curators and researchers. For the papers, applicants are expected to submit abstracts of 300 words (plus short CV of 150 words) as a word or PDF document.

Abstracts for the 20 minute papers should be emailed before 26 May to conference@louisiana.dk.

All talks will be filmed and uploaded on the Louisiana Research website as a video publication.

To complement the event at Louisiana an anthology of peer-reviewed articles based on the conference presentations will be published.
A committee comprised of representatives of the organizing institutions will assess the abstracts by the end of June and determine the final selection.

Confirmed keynote speakers:
Terry Smith, Professor, University of Pittsburgh, USA.
Pamela M. Lee, Professor, Stanford University, USA.
Romy Golan, Professor, City University of New York, USA.
Masha Chlenova, curator and expert on Russian Avant-garde.
Hiroko Ikegami, Associate Professor, Kobe University, Japan.
Michael Sheridan, Architect and author of the forthcoming book on the architecture of Louisiana.

Questions about the conference can be addressed to Kristian Handberg at krh@louisiana.dk.

Registration will be possible through our website until October 2017. A limited number of travel bursaries will be available for people travelling from countries outside Europe. Please check the website for updates and should you require more information feel free to contact the organizers.
Organizing Committee:
Kristian Handberg, Postdoc at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and The University of Copenhagen.
Marie Laurberg, Curator at Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
Flavia Frigeri, Teaching Fellow, UCL - University College London (former Curator, Tate Modern)
Karen Westphal Eriksen, Postdoc, The University of Copenhagen.

Reference:
CFP: Multiple Modernisms (Humlebæk, 2-3 Nov 17). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 7, 2017 (accessed Nov 19, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/15177>.