

Art History Graduate Symposium (Saint Paul, 29–30 Sept 17)

Saint Paul, Minnesota, Sep 29–30, 2017

Deadline: Jun 15, 2017

Dr. Jayme Yahr

The University of St. Thomas Department of Art History

will host its eighth annual Graduate Student Research Symposium, Exhibiting Power, on September 30, 2017

Keynote Speaker: Robert Rydell, Professor of History & Director, Humanities Institute, Montana State University

Power hungry. Power grab. Power in numbers. Soft power. Displays of power. The start of 2017 has brought the issue of “power” to the forefront of political, cultural, economic, entertainment, and social debates. Yet, the issue of “power” in art history and museum studies has long been a topic of scholarly research and discussion. Art History has asked how images and objects can visually explain power through signs and symbols, as well as through association with artistic movements and artist groups. Museums, likewise, have questioned their own role in exhibiting power through the examination of display practices, educational models, community-based partnerships, and innovative use of space. In a rapidly changing world, how do art history and museum studies rely on the past for lessons in exhibiting power, while also representing power in new ways?

We welcome art historical and museum studies research papers from current graduate students that address the broad definition of “power” through the varied lenses of exhibitions, sites, artworks, artistic movements, and artists. Papers may explore aspects of this topic across any time period, media, or geographical region.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Exhibition/curatorial studies related to the theme of power
- Museums, monuments and sacred spaces as sites of power
- Critiques of power structures
- Ways in which power can silence artists, artistic narratives, communities, or individuals
- The role of “powerful” works of art in the museum experience
- “Powerful” collectors or art world influencers
- Symbols of power in works of art
- Protest or political art
- “Regimes of power”
- Power of the “powerless”
- Contemporary representations of power

- Historical images of power
- Ritual as power
- Authoritative power
- Soft or hard power
- Disruptions of power
- Art objects as embodiments of power
- World's fairs, art fairs, biennials as displays or sites of power

For consideration, please submit a 300-word abstract and curriculum vitae as Word document attachments to artgradstusym@stthomas.edu by June 15, 2017. Selected participants will be notified by June 30, 2017. Paper presentations will be 20 minutes in length and the graduate program will award a prize to the best paper in the symposium. Full papers due by September 5, 2017. Please direct questions to: artgradstusym@stthomas.edu.

Reference:

CFP: Art History Graduate Symposium (Saint Paul, 29-30 Sept 17). In: ArtHist.net, May 8, 2017 (accessed Sep 22, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/15469>>.