

Art History Before English (Florence, 8–10 Mar 18)

Florence, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai, Via dei Servi 51, Mar 8–10, 2018

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Art History Before English: Negotiating a European 'Lingua Franca' from Vasari to the Present
International Conference

organized by Alessandro Nova in collaboration with Robert Brennan, Marco Mascolo, and Oliver O'Donnell within the framework of the Research project "Languages of Art History"

The expansion of art historical scholarship across cultural and linguistic boundaries reveals problems with the inherited vocabularies of the discipline. Today, for better or worse, English has become an ever more prominent common language of academic discourse, art history being no exception, and yet the problems this development poses are not without historical precedent within the European tradition of art writing. Alongside the task of adapting classical concepts to modern usage, scholars have long had to contend with what was arguably the 'lingua franca' of art historical discourse in their own time: Italian in the 16th and 17th centuries, French in the 17th and 18th, and German in the 19th and 20th. This conference seeks to leverage this succession of dominant languages in order to shed light on the present assumption of English as a 'lingua franca' of art history. In so doing, the conference seeks to evaluate how Italian, French, and German have decisively shaped the discipline, assembling a cache of certain terms, concepts, and modes of thought – often to the exclusion of others – that remain central across a wide variety of languages in the field today.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY MARCH 8

14:30 Introduction

Alessandro Nova, C. Oliver O'Donnell, Robert Brennan

PANEL 1

INVENTIONS OF ACADEMIC LANGUAGES

Chair: Alessandro Nova

15:00

Di lotta e di governo. Lessico, codici e categorie critiche degli scritti accademici sull'arte dagli Umi di alla Crusca

Massimiliano Rossi | Università del Salento, Lecce

15:40

Terms of Art

Robert Williams | University of California, Santa Barbara

16:20 Coffee Break

Chair: Marco Mascolo

16:50

The Conferences of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture: A New Discourse on the Arts

Jacqueline Lichtenstein | Université Paris-Sorbonne

17:30

La lingua francese e la scrittura della storia dell'arte 1660-1700

Olivier Bonfait | Université de Bourgogne

18:10 Coffee Break

Chair: Robert Brennan

18:30

Language Ideologies and the Inventions of Art History

John Leavitt | Université de Montréal

FRIDAY MARCH 9

PANEL 2

ASSIMILATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF ACADEMIC MODELS

Chair: C. Oliver O'Donnell

09:30

Antiguidade and Pintura. Concepts Redefined by a Novel Artistic Universality

Alessandra Russo | Columbia University, New York

10:10

In the Manner of Vasari: Italian Loanwords and Calques in Karel van Mander's *Schilder-Boeck* (1604)

Francesca Terrenato | Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza

10:50 Coffee Break

PANEL 3

IN THE SHADOW OF THE ACADEMY

Chair: Alexander Nagel

11:20

Reading Diderot in America

Michael Fried | Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

12:00

Historical Genre: Negotiating a Hybrid Concept in and outside of 19th-century France

Stephen Bann | University of Bristol

12:40 Lunch Break

PANEL 4

TRANSLATING AND UNTRANSLATING ART WRITING

Chair: Brigitte Sölch

14:00

Winckelmanns Sprachen. Kunsttheorie als Übersetzung

Elisabeth Décultot | Universität Halle

14:40

Art Historical Untranslatables

Andreas Beyer | Universität Basel

15:20

Why did the 'Renaissance' Resist Translation?

Christopher S. Wood | New York University

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30

Site visit – Chapel of Saint Luke, Basilica della Santissima Annunziata

led by Fabian Jonietz | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz (for speakers only)

SATURDAY MARCH 10

PANEL 5

EKPHRASIS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Chair: Andreas Beyer

09:30

Roberto Longhi e la sua ricezione, tra ekphrasis e connoisseurship

Marco Mascolo | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

10:10

Nello specchio della traduzione: l'ecfrasi longhiana alla prova della lingua francese
Émilie Passignat | Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia

10:50 Coffee Break

PANEL 6

ART HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chair: Hana Gründler

11:20

Schapiro and Lévi-Strauss: Structuralist Arguments among Color Field Paintings
C. Oliver O'Donnell | Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

12:00

Reading-In: Franz Boas and the Languages of the Anthropology of Art
Whitney Davis | University of California, Berkeley

12:45 Concluding Discussion

CONTACT

Pavla Langer

Department Alessandro Nova

E-Mail: sekr_nova@khi.fi.it

VENUE

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Max-Planck-Institut

Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai

Via dei Servi 51

50122 Florence / Italy

FURTHER INFORMATION

Web: <http://www.khi.fi.it>

Newsletter: <http://www.khi.fi.it/newsletter>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/khi.fi.it>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/khiflorenz>

Reference:

CONF: Art History Before English (Florence, 8-10 Mar 18). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 22, 2018 (accessed Sep 18, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/17435>>.