# The Art of Ugliness, 29th AHA Graduate Symposium (Bloomington, 13 Apr 19)

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Apr 13, 2019
Deadline: Jan 10, 2019

MaryClaire Pappas, Queen's University

"The Art of Ugliness"
29th Annual Art History Association Graduate Symposium
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Keynote address: "The Use Value of Ugliness" by Dr. Andrei Pop, Associate Professor, Committee on Social Thought, Art History, and the College, The University of Chicago and Dr. Mechtild Widrich, Assistant Professor, Art History, Theory and Criticism, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Is ugliness diametrically opposed to beauty? Or is ugliness simply another aspect of the same coin systematically constructed and cultivated over centuries? While beauty has been fruitfully examined in fields ranging from philosophy to aesthetics and art history, less attention has been given to discourses concerning ugliness. We consider it imperative to reconsider ugliness at this moment to flesh out the ways in which discourses surrounding the “ugly” shape ideas surrounding acceptability. Why do we define, name, or think of something or someone as “ugly”? Is it a psychological reaction to what we perceive as gross or disgusting? Does it violate morality? The Art of Ugliness will explore the complex social, cultural, and political aspects embedded within notions of ugliness as well as the aesthetic and philosophical implications of “the ugly”.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

Changing perceptions of the nude
The geography of decay- the ruinous landscape
Disease and the body
Xenophobia
Class and the representation of the profane and abject
Ugliness and (pseudo)scientific visual culture: phrenology, physiognomy
Technology and the body
Evolutionary Theories and Aesthetics
Relationships to the “exotic”/ “other”
The Grotesque; the monstrous; the strange
We invite papers that address ideas of ugliness and aesthetics and greatly encourage the submission of papers engaging objects from a broad variety of periods, geographies, and social groups. Paper sessions, followed by a panel response and discussion, will occur on Saturday,

April 13th followed by the keynote address.
Current graduate students in art history and related disciplines are invited to submit an abstract (maximum 300 words) for a twenty-minute presentation and CV to ahasympo@gmail.com by January 10th, 2019.
Honoraria will be awarded to all presenters who attend from outside Bloomington, IN

http://arthistory.indiana.edu/graduate/CFP19.pdf

Reference:
CFP: The Art of Ugliness, 29th AHA Graduate Symposium (Bloomington, 13 Apr 19). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 27, 2018 (accessed Nov 15, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/19656>.