

## Un/masking. On a Mimetic Form (Munich, 4–6 Jul 19)

Munich, Jul 4–06, 2019

Anna Baccanti

Un/masking. On a Mimetic Form

6th International Conference of the Munich Doctoral Program for Literature and the Arts

MIMESIS

Masks are an integral part of human culture. They have been a vital element of theatrical practices since antiquity and have always played a crucial role in ritual as well as artistic and literary activities throughout the world. Their innate tension springs from their capacity to both show and conceal as well as to imitate and create, thus displaying a structural analogy to the workings of mimesis. Masks have the ability to generate an oscillation between truth and illusion, an interplay between identity, difference and appropriation. In recent years, various artists, performers and political activists have been attracted to the object of the mask and have updated the powerful act of un/masking for our times.

This international and interdisciplinary conference brings together papers from various fields within the humanities. It seeks to connect diverging theories and methods in order to open new perspectives on numerous manifestations of the mask, ranging from Baroque theater, and turn-of-the century cabaret to modern facial recognition, from shamanistic practices to 18th-century aesthetics and digital art. In addition to addressing questions of identity in postcolonial societies and the usage of masks in political movements, the conference will also highlight figures of the mask in fashion, music, literature and 20th-century avantgardes. Discussing acts of un/masking in a diverse range of artistic media and a broad spectrum of contexts, this conference encourages theoretical reflection on its ambiguity and mimetic practices.

### Program

Thursday, July 4, 2019

LMU, Luisenstraße 37, 80333 Munich, Room C106

4:00 pm Registration (for Speakers only)

4:30 pm TOBIAS DÖRING (IDP Mimesis)

Welcoming Address

4:45 pm ANNA BACCANTI, JOHANNA SPANGENBERG (IDP Mimesis)

Un/Masking: On a Mimetic Form

PANEL 1 – REVEALING MASKS (Chair: Joana Mylek)

5:15 pm AGNES HOFFMANN (University of Basel)

Schminck und Schein: The Art and Power of Unmasking in German Baroque Drama

6:00 pm CHRISTIANE LEWE (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

Surface and Depth: The Revival of Physiognomy in Deep Learning

6:45 pm Break

7:00 pm Keynote Address

BERNHARD SIEGERT (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar)

Switching Perspectives: The Operative Ontology of the Transformation. Masks of the American Northwest Coast

Chair: Sebastian Althoff

Friday, July 5, 2019

Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Katharina-von-Bora-Str.10, 80333 Munich, Room 242

9:00 am ULRICH PFISTERER (Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte Munich)

Welcoming Address

9:15 am Keynote Address

JOYCE CHENG (University of Oregon)

The Surrealists on Style: Toward a Theory of Expression as Masquerade

Chair: Antonia Stichnoth

10:30 am Coffee Break

PANEL 2 – UN/MASKING POLITICS (Chair: Simon Gröger)

11:00 am TIM BEASLEY-MURRAY (University College London)

Against Politics as Self-Disclosure and Inclusion: The Anti-Politics of Masking

11:45 am SARAH HEGENBART (TU Munich)

Redressing History in South Africa: Sethembile Msezane and Mary Sibande and their Masking of the Black Body

12:30 am VITA PEACOCK (University of Cambridge)

Masks and Initiatory Transformation in Anonymous

1:15 pm Lunch Break

MARC ADAMCZACK (IDP Mimesis): Guided Tour of the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte

PANEL 3 – UN/HUMAN (Chair: Babylonia Constantinides)

2:45 pm CAROLIN BOHN (TU Braunschweig)

Somewhere between Realities: Structures of Un/masking in German 18th-century Aesthetics

3:30 pm BETHAN HUGHES (University of Leeds)

Corpsing: CGI as Grotesque Realism in the Work of Ed Atkins

4:15 pm LAURETTE BURGHOLZER (University of Bern)

Neutral Masks, Significant Bodies: Heritage, Exoticism and Depersonalization in Actors' Training in France in the Early 20th Century

5:00 pm Coffee Break

5:30 pm Keynote Address

W. ANTHONY SHEPPARD (Williams College, MA)

Morality and Meaning in Vocal Masking

Chair: Johanna Spangenberg

Saturday, July 6, 2019

Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Katharina-von-Bora-Straße 10, Room 242

PANEL 4 – MASKING THE (IM)MATERIAL: EMBODIMENT AND ABSTRACTION

(Chair: Bettina Vitzthum)

9:00 am ELISA LEROY (IDP Mimesis)

'Such a questionable shape': Un/masking the Ghost as Actor and Author in Hamlet

9:45 am ELEONORE ZAPF (University of Innsbruck)

Thoughts Becoming Persons: Fernando Pessoa's Poetic Carnival

10:30 am JUDITH KEMP (Deutsches Museum Munich)

'Wüstes Farbengetändel': Peter Altenberg's 'Masken' in 'Cabaret Fledermaus'

11:15 am Coffee and Snacks

ANJA WÄCHTER (IDP Mimesis): Guided Tour of the Photographs of Stefan Moses: Creative Incognito – Stefan Moses' Artists Behind Masks

12:15 pm Keynote Address

BARBARA VINKEN (LMU Munich)

Un ballo in maschera

Chair: Anna Baccanti

1:30 pm SEBASTIAN ALTHOFF, ANTONIA STICHNOTH (IDP Mimesis)

Concluding Remarks

Reference:

CONF: Un/masking. On a Mimetic Form (Munich, 4-6 Jul 19). In: ArtHist.net, Jun 5, 2019 (accessed Apr 17, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/21008>>.