Art and the State in Modern Central Europe (Zagreb, 8-11 Jul 20)

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, Jul 8–11, 2020
Deadline: Dec 15, 2019

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Attempts to explore and define in more detail, both diachronically and synchronically, relationships and mutual influences between state bodies and art production, communication, education and reception have for decades formed an important part of numerous explorations in various academic disciplines such as art history, history, anthropology, sociology, education etc. The conference aims to provide insights into the current knowledge and interpretations of these relations from the 18th century to the present day, i.e. from the period in which Europe states went through intense centralization, leading to the growth of their influence on artistic production, public cultural and artistic institutions and education. In all these contexts, the term “state” is taken to stand for a politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory and the political organization of such a body of people (Merriam Webster Dictionary).
Regardless of whether they were monarchies, republics, federations or centralized states, state bodies played an extremely important role in the production of art and in the institutionalization of knowledge, culture and art in all parts of Europe and throughout the aforementioned period. By fabricating its visual identity, commissioning works from artists whom it considered close, and censoring those segments of art production that it judged potentially dangerous to its survival, the state has largely been shaping the art scene in all parts of Europe. Additionally, states’ cultural and educational policies have influenced (and still does) the shaping of knowledge about the arts and teaching content in the field of art (history) on all educational levels.
The conference therefore welcomes contributions that deal with approaches to interpretation of these phenomena and various topics in the broad field of art history (painting, sculpture, applied arts, graphic design, photography, architecture, urban planning, curricula and study programmes in art history, etc.) but also other humanities disciplines.

The contributions could address the following topics:

1. Representation, propaganda, image-making in European states
2. Art and changes of state borders
3. Art commissioning policies
4. Control of art production through censorship
5. State-sponsored artists
6. State-funded education of artists
7. Public sculpture and the state
8. Public space furnishing campaigns

9. Preservation of architectural heritage
10. Formal and informal education and promotion of artistic and cultural literacy
11. State policies and the acquisition of artworks for public museums and other institutions
12. Architecture and state authorities
13. Interstate artistic projects
14. Art and war
15. Art in totalitarian and democratic regimes
16. Artists as social critics
17. Church and public officials as art commissioners
18. Institutionalization of knowledge, culture and arts
19. Cultural and educational policies, national identity and visual arts
20. State Policy and Strategies of Designing Everyday Life
21. Art market, illegal trade and counterfeit art
22. National representation through state funded exhibitions

As a topic that can provide almost limitless possibilities for reviewing, expanding and deepening current understandings, other issues concerning the complex relations between art and the state can also be touched upon within the given topics.

VENUE

The Art and State in Modern Central Europe international conference will take place at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, from 8 to 11 July 2020. It will be organized within the project “Art and the State in Croatia from the Enlightenment to the Present", IP-2018-01-9364, funded by the Croatian Sciences Foundation.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Paper proposals should contain author(s)’s name(s), title and the body of text, written in English, which should not exceed 400 words and a short author’s biography not longer than 250 words.
Proposals should be sent to art-state@ffzg.hr
Deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 December 2019.
Contributors will receive notification of acceptance by 20 January 2020.
The official language of the conference is English.

Reference:

CFP: Art and the State in Modern Central Europe (Zagreb, 8-11 Jul 20). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 22, 2019 (accessed Nov 22, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/21886>.