

Lecture Series: Periodization in the History of Art (Bucharest, 25 Nov–3 Dec 19)

New Europe College - Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, Nov 25–Dec 3, 2019

Mihnea Mihail, Bucharest

Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to tackle them in East-Central Europe

The second seminar of the program Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to tackle them in East-Central Europe, organized by New Europe College - Institute for Advanced Study and supported by The Getty Foundation as part of its Connecting Art Histories Initiative, will take place in Bucharest, on 25 Nov - 3 Dec.

This program consists in a series of three seminars of one-week duration each, discussing periodization and related issues in the history of art, whose addressees are early-career art historians from East-Central Europe, and which include a number of invited guest speakers, from this region, and outside it. Though a sense that the conventional periodizations are in need of revision can be detected earlier, a more pointed reflection on this topic can be noticed after the demise of communism and the dismantling of the colonial system. In the aftermath of the 1989 events in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, a number of scholars felt the pressing need to reconsider the place of local art histories within the established narratives, and to reflect on how these local histories might fit within the Western canon, or to question its authority. Art historians dealing with modern and contemporary art were particularly sensitive to such questions, but this gradually became a more general concern, affecting the writing of histories of art of earlier periods. Frictions between the generally accepted periodizations and local trajectories in art became more apparent, making it necessary to reflect on approaches that could address such concerns, and on the instruments art historians may put to use in order to tackle particular case studies. It thus seems to us that periodization, with the many issues related to it, is a topic likely to elicit interest from colleagues and younger scholars from countries in the region, and to lead to fruitful exchanges not just across the discipline, but across national borders, and – through the presence of the invited speakers – across regional ones.

This series of seminars aims to address questions that are (or so we deem) of interest to art historians in the countries of East-Central Europe in ways that would counter a piece-meal approach, mostly dictated by national borders, in favor of a more unified one, and would provide an opportunity to identify common concerns, and possibly case studies that could (or should) encourage cross-border collaboration. It hopes to contribute in this manner to a better communication between art historians in this region.

The program is coordinated by Anca Oroveanu, PhD, Academic Coordinator of the New Europe College-Institute for Advanced Study, Bucharest, Professor of History and Theory of Art at the National University of Arts in Bucharest

Guest speakers of the second seminar:

Mon. Nov. 25, 17.00

Thomas DACOSTA KAUFMANN, Frederick Marquand Professor of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University

Dealing with Discomfort: Reflections on the Practice of Periodization

Tue. Nov. 26, 17.00

Katarzyna MURAWSKA-MUTHESIUS, Associate Lecturer in art history at Birkbeck College, University of London

The lure of the ethnic dress: Eastern Europe in Travellers' Gaze

Thu. Nov. 28, 17.00

Carmen POPESCU, Professor of Architectural History at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Bretagne (Rennes)

Space Versus Time: Flattening History. An architectural history perspective

Mon. Dec. 2, 17.00

Ruxandra DEMETRESCU, Professor of History and Theory of Art and head of the Doctoral School, National University of Art, Bucharest

Feminity/ Feminism in Romanian Modern and Contemporary Art

Tue. Dec. 3, 17.00

Matthew RAMPLEY, Professor at the Art History Department of the Masaryk University in Brno, Principal Investigator in the ERC Advanced Grant project Continuity / Rupture: Art and Architecture in Central Europe 1918-1939, hosted by the Masaryk University in Brno

Aby Warburg and the Transhistorical Migration of Images

All talks are free and open to the public and take place at New Europe College - Institute for Advanced Study in Bucharest (21 Plantelor street, <http://www.nec.ro/>). Registration is not required. More information about the program Periodization in the History of Art and its Conundrums. How to tackle them in East-Central Europe can be found here: <http://www.nec.ro/research-programs/periodization-in-the-history-of-art/>.

Reference:

ANN: Lecture Series: Periodization in the History of Art (Bucharest, 25 Nov-3 Dec 19). In: ArHist.net, Nov 9, 2019 (accessed Jul 5, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/22036>>.