

Religious Art in Modernity: The Icon in Russia (14-16 Oct 20)

Online, Oct 14-16, 2020

Registration deadline: Oct 14, 2020

civi.iwm.at/events/religious-art

Ludmila Piters-Hofmann

The Problem of Religious Art in Modernity: Uses and Abuses of the Icon in Russia

8th Graduate Workshop of the Russian Art & Culture Group, in collaboration with the "Eurasia in Global Dialogue" Program at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna

Working language: English

In *Human, All Too Human*, Nietzsche wrote: "that species of art can never flourish again which—like the *Divine Comedy*, the paintings by Raphael, the frescoes of Michelangelo, Gothic cathedrals—presupposes not only a cosmic but a metaphysical significance in the objects of art." In his usual provocative manner, Nietzsche attracted attention to the problem of religious art in a secular modernity. This issue was already implicit in Kant's notion of the viewer of the work of art as "indifferent to the real existence of the object of representation."

The eighth graduate workshop of the Russian Art and Culture Group will consider the deep implications posed by the problem of religious art by examining the various ways in which the icon was adapted in modern Russia to serve different artistic, philosophical, and political agendas.

Program

UTC+2 hours

Wednesday, October 14

13.30

Opening: Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Isabel Wünsche, Jacobs University Bremen

Panel I: Russian Icon-Painting

Chair: Clemena Antonova

14.00

The Icon-Painters' Pattern-Books and the End of the Byzantine Iconicity in the Post-Medieval Russia

Alexei Lidov, Lomonosov Moscow State University

14.30

The Icon Within the Icon: The Rhetoric of the Composition and the Peculiarities of Icon Veneration in Russia

Oleg Tarasov, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

15.00 Break

Panel II: Fin De Siècle Russian Art

Chair: Isabel Wünsche

15.30

Uniting the Opposite: Orthodox Imagery in Russian Folklore Depictions

Ludmila Piters-Hofmann, Jacobs-University Bremen

16.00

From Sacrilegious Monstrosities to Modernist Masterpieces: The Changing Reception of Mikhail Vrubel's Religious Murals at the Fin de Siècle

Maria Taroutina, Yale-NUS College Singapore

Thursday, October 15

Panel III: The Mother of God and Her Portrayals

Chair: Clemena Antonova

14.00

Marion Iconology and Women's Agency

Viktoria Lavriniuk, University of Ottawa

14.30

Liubov Popova and Reality as a Site of Construction

Petra Carlsson, Stockholm School of Theology

15.00 Break

15.30 Guest Lecture

Presence and Power: Reflections on the Politics and Theology of Icons

George Pattison, University of Glasgow

16.00

Some Inquiries Concerning the Understanding of Icons

Thomas Németh, University of Vienna

Friday, October 16

Panel IV: Philosophical Ideas on Icons

Chair: Isabel Wünsche

14.00

The Power of Images and the Failure of Aesthetics: The Russian Position

Clemena Antonova, Eurasia in Global Dialogue (IWM), Vienna

14.30

Divine Darkness and Uncreated Light: Byzantine Meanings of Avant-Garde's Icons

Tatiana Levina, Higher School of Economics, Moscow

15.00 Break

Panel V: Twentieth Century Russian Art

Chair: Ludmila Piters-Hofmann

15.30

Abstraction as Expression of Religious Truths in Wassily Kandinsky's Painting

Lilia Sokolova, University of Cologne

16.00

Stalin Christ as a Czar: On "Anachronic" (Socialist) Realism

Nikita Balagurov, independent scholar, St. Petersburg

16.30 Concluding Discussion

Registration for the online (Zoom) workshop: <https://civi.iwm.at/events/religious-art>

Initial idea and organization: Prof. Dr. Isabel Wünsche, Dr. Clemena Antonova, and Ludmila Piters-Hofmann.

The event is organized in collaboration with the "Eurasia in Global Dialogue" Program at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), and generously supported by the Kroll Family Trust, Switzerland.

The Russian Art and Culture Group is based at Jacobs University Bremen. Headed by Prof. Dr. Isabel Wünsche, it brings together scholars and young researchers from Eastern and Western Europe.

Contact: workshop@russian-art.net

<https://russian-art.net>

Reference:

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