

The Lure of the Object (30.4.-1.5.2004, Williamstown)

Mark Ledbury

Clark Conference 30 April and 1 May 2004 : The Lure of the Object

Clark Conferences explore what and where Art History is, bringing together academics, critics, curators, and philosophers to explore pressing issues and debates which shape the nature and direction of the discipline today. This year's Clark Art Institute Conference is entitled

The Lure of the Object

A lure is something that tempts or attracts with the offer of pleasure or reward, a promise sometimes false, sometimes kept and sometimes broken. The conference will ask how art history finds, loses, or gives itself away in the face of its objects.

Our contributors, who include curators, conservators and academics drawn from several different disciplines in the humanities, will explore how artists, the public and art historians encounter objects --painted, drawn, and sculpted; lost, found, and readymade; exhibited and conserved; made and unmade -- and ask what difference this encounter has made to the conception and practice of Art History.

Speakers will include the cultural historian Professor John Brewer, on the subject of connoisseurship, commerce and ownership of 'prized' objects in art history, Christian Scheidemann, Chief Conservator at the unique 'Contemporary Conservation', who has often been charged with the difficult practical task of preserving the material integrity of the contemporary art object, as well as curator-academics Helen Molesworth (of the Wexner Center) and Malcolm Baker (of the Victoria and Albert Museum and the University of Southern California) on the Sculpted object, and Professor Margaret Iverson, (of the University of Essex) one of the world authorities on the Surrealist object.

The fees for the conference are \$25 for general public admission, \$15 for members and students with ID. More details, a full program and speaker list, and a downloadable registration form can be found on our website at http://www.clarkart.edu/research_and_academic/content.cfm?ID=264

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