

Narrative in 19th-century Art (AAH Bristol 2005)

Nina

CALL FOR PAPERS

Session 'Narrative in 19th-century art'

Session organiser: Dr Nina Lübbren

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This session is part of 'Conception: Reception', the Annual Conference of the Association of Art Historians (AAH), University of Bristol, UK, 31 March - 2 April 2005. A call for papers for all the conference sessions will be published in the June edition of the AAH Bulletin and at the AAH website:

<http://www.gold.ac.uk/aah/>

If you would like to offer a paper, please contact the session organiser direct. Please submit an abstract of c. 500 words, including the paper's title as well as your name, institutional affiliation (if any) and contact details. The deadline for submissions is 1 November 2004.

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NARRATIVE IN 19TH-CENTURY ART

Narrative was central to much 19th-century art and art reception. Artists told stories in their pictures; viewers told their own stories in response to visual cues; critics debated what were the best modes of telling a story via an image; and 20th-century art historians went on to denigrate the whole enterprise as 'theatrical' and 'anecdotal'. This session revisits the narrative richness of 19th-century art and seeks to open out the debate beyond the familiar polarities of academic vs avantgarde, literary vs art-pour-l'art, France vs rest-of-world.

The period covered is the 'long' 19th century (1789-1917). Aspects to be discussed might include: the applicability of text-based narratological models for the analyses of visual imagery, the reception of narrative images by popular audiences, the relationship of painting / film / illustration / comic strips, the relationship of literature / drama / popular literature to visual art, narrative and sculpture, the question whether visual narratives in this period were dependent on texts or developed their own independent language, modernity and narration, modernism and narration, non-narrative forms of art and their relationship to visual narratives, innovation and tradition in 19th-century pictorial narratives, the development and evolution of visual narrative throughout the century -- and, finally, how any of these issues were addressed and debated by contemporary 19th-century artists and commentators.

Papers are invited that debate the larger implications of a particular issue or that focus on specific case-studies. Contributions that go beyond the usual suspects of France and the Commonwealth are especially welcome.

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Reference:

CFP: Narrative in 19th-century Art (AAH Bristol 2005). In: ArtHist.net, May 15, 2004 (accessed Sep 15, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/26390>>.