

An Over-Sexed History of Art? - AAH (Leeds, 5-8 Apr 06)

Steven Stowell

AAH Annual Conference

CONTENTS. DISCONTENTS. MALCONTENTS

University of Leeds, 5 - 7 April 2006

Session:

An Over-Sexed History of Art? Art History at the Intersection of Gender and Sexuality

We are coming upon the thirtieth anniversary of the publication of Michel Foucault's first volume of *The History of Sexuality*, a text that – among other things – synthesized a number of emerging ideas on the topic of queer sexuality. It has been even longer since a related, though distinct, revolution overturned notions of femininity and gender: art history has never been the same. This is a call for papers that seeks to broadly re-examine the status of gender studies in art history across all periods with the hope of understanding “what – if anything – is next?” While we may feel proud of the accomplishments and advancements that have been made toward a de-centred, non- heterocentric, non-patriarchal engagement with the histories of art, scholars, both emerging and established, approaching the topic of gender and art history may feel as though it is a mine-field, theorized beyond comprehension, seething with discontent and the bruises of past (and current) political and social inequalities. Nonetheless, there still remain countless topics in the field of gender and art history that remain unexamined; histories of ‘sub-alterns’ operating within the realm of visual culture but overshadowed by the looming presence of dominant narratives, and new ways of reading those narratives that are situated outside of the centre. In the wake of these problems and possibilities, how are art historians continuing to work critically in, and through, sexuality as a discursive construct? In the spirit of this conference which seeks to prioritize the art historian's agenda, this session ultimately asks “when and how are theories of gender and sexuality useful or not useful to art historians?”

Please send an abstract of your proposed contribution in no more than 250

words, your name, organisational affiliation (if any) and contact details,
no later than 11 November 2005, to:

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or

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Reference:

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