

Heritage, Ideology, Politics, Culture (Ljubljana 20-22 Feb 06)

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Call for Papers

Deadline: 8 December 2005

The preservation and interpretation of artistic monuments was a central force behind the establishment of art history in numerous European countries. It played a key role in the development of national and cultural identities and in the formation of collective memories, and still constitutes an important part of EU cultural strategy.

However, 'heritage' has a range of distinct connotations that reflect the differences in the traditions and historical experiences of individual European nations during the past century. In Eastern Europe, in the aftermath of World War II, there prevailed a political hostility to those classes of society deemed to have been responsible for the construction of churches, castles and palaces. Inevitably, this found expression in the attitude toward the mentioned monuments themselves. In the most radical cases, some of the monuments were neglected through a lack of care and protection, or even physically removed. The protection of monuments in these countries was thus limited only to those works supposed to point out the high qualifications of the experts involved and the tolerance toward culture expressed by the new socialist order. Since 1989 such countries have been faced with the further challenges of dealing with the architectural and artistic legacy of a socialist 'heritage' they would prefer to forget.

Parallel debates have taken place in Western European states over the meaning of heritage - and over what should and should not be preserved. The destruction caused by the second World War also had considerable influence on the doctrine of conservation. Alois Riegl's principle of 'conservation rather than restoration' gave way to a concern with the reconstruction of

monuments. Thus the rebuilt historical centre of Warsaw, the reconstruction of Dresden's Marienkirche or of the castle in the middle of Berlin half a century after the war can only be understood as attempts to reconstruct a lost historical memory.

These considerations give rise to a number of important questions:

What is the meaning of 'heritage' in different European states?

How has the meaning of 'heritage' impacted on practices of conservation and restoration?

What roles does 'heritage' continue to play in ongoing debates about cultural identity and politics?

How does the issue of 'heritage' relate to the sphere of memory (both individual and collective)?

* In what ways have specific states defined and redefined their heritage over the past 100 years?

Speakers are requested to submit a 200-word proposal for a 30-minute talk by December 8th 2005 to Marta Filipova (marta.filipova@eca.ac.uk). The working language will be English, but participants may also present in French or German, provided that an English-language version of their presentation is available in advance of the workshop. This workshop is the fourth of the Discourses of the Visible research network funded by the European Science Foundation. The ESF will pay for speakers' return travel to Ljubljana, accommodation and subsistence during the duration of the workshop.

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