

Institutional Critique as Institution (Leeds 5-7 April 06)

Christopher P Heuer

CFP: Institutional Critique as Institution (AAH Leeds, 5-7 April 06)

Session for Association of Art Historians Annual Conference
Leeds, UK 5-7 April

Session Organizers:

Christopher P. Heuer, Columbia University
Matthew Jesse Jackson, University of Chicago

Various strategies of "institutional critique" in art practice - from David to Haacke to Art & Language - have themselves generated sharp, oppositional, and often extremely productive analytical legacies. Yet art history has proven surprisingly less-attentive to its own professional and theoretical realities. On the one hand, art history seems reluctant to admit that many of its foundational, and once-"adversarial" texts (say those of T.J. Clark, Rosalind Krauss and Griselda Pollock) are now firmly ensconced as "institutions" themselves, whether as features of syllabi, subjects of course modules, or themes of symposia and panels. On the other, the capital-based realities of art history - slashed budgets, oversaturated job markets, ballooning tuition fees - make it extremely difficult to speak of a "neutral" institutional background. What are the implications of this condition for forms of self-reflexive criticism? Can we save "oppositional" theory from becoming only so much empty spectacle? What are the historical precedents for these kinds of narratives? This session, to be conducted at the 2006 Association of Art Historians Conference, "Art & Art History: Contents, Discontents, Malcontents" welcomes 20-30 minute papers on any aspect of critical discourse as "institution", on cultural phenomena of any era.

DEADLINE for abstracts: November 10, 2005

Please address all submissions to ch2353@columbia.edu or to the postal address below.

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