

## Reading Images (Wassenaar, 21-23 Apr 06)

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European Science Foundation Network

'Discourses of the Visible: national and international perspectives'

Call for Papers

Reading Images: Art History, Medicine, Astronomy and other Discourses

NIAS [Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study],

Wassenaar, the Netherlands,

21-23 April 2006

### CONCEPT

Images surround us everywhere, they relate to every topic imaginable, and are inextricably connected to how we perceive the world. In the so-called 'visual turn' of the 1990s, images and imaging became central to debates on art, science, technology, and their interconnections.

Their fascination is enhanced by the increasing use of computer-generated images and new imaging technologies. This workshop will discuss scientific and artistic imagery in a global context, considering the modes of production and reception of non-art images across disciplines and across cultures, and the cross fertilization that occurs.

Art History has a long tradition of studying artistic imagery, but worldwide images are also important means of communication and objects of research for the physical and biological sciences, as well as a range of other knowledge practices. Information about the body, the brain, the natural environment, the cosmos, etc. that is not visible with the naked eye, is made visual and is applied in scientific research. Often, these images are assumed to represent objective knowledge, but they are also culturally dependent and rely on specific conventions of representation and practices of looking. This workshop will therefore consider the following questions:

**How do scientific and non-art images function?**

What do such images represent in different contexts and discourses?

**What is the impact of scientific imagery on artistic modes of representation and how does art respond to and apply scientific representations?**

What is the relationship between non-art images, and what is their impact on art (how do artists view and use them)?

\* What happens when images shift from one domain to another with regard to representing, communicating and producing knowledge?

In responding to these questions participants may wish to consider the following topics:

**The epistemic character of representation**

The agency of images

**Image as site and as modality (producing images, the image itself, the audience)**

Scientific imaging as a challenge for art and for the discipline of art history, and vice versa

\* Cultural diversity, globalisation and practices of visualization

Speakers are requested to submit a 200-word proposal for a 30-minute talk by January 15, 2006 to Marta Filipova ([marta.filipova@eca.ac.uk](mailto: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 fifth of the Discourses of the Visible research network funded by the European Science Foundation. The ESF will pay for speakers' return travel to the NIAS, accommodation and subsistence during the duration of the workshop.

For further information on the 3-year project of 'Discourses of the Visible. National and International Perspectives' please go to <http://www.visualdiscourse.uni-hamburg.de/>

Reference:

CFP: Reading Images (Wassenaar, 21-23 Apr 06). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 15, 2005 (accessed Jul 3, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/27742>>.