

The New Anthropology of Art (San Francisco, 14–18 Nov 12)

American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, Nov 14–18, 2012

Deadline: Mar 10, 2012

Saleem Al-Bahloly

The New Anthropology of Art

Saleem Al-Bahloly (UC Berkeley) and Elizabeth Kelley (UC Berkeley)

What would an anthropology of the modern artwork be? This panel attempts to re-conceive the anthropology of art as an anthropology of forms of painting, literature, theater and film that developed within a particular history in Europe and circulated to non-European countries, where they had no history but where they enabled the creation of new means of expression. The proliferation of paintings, novels, plays, and films in the non-European world was a major characteristic of the twentieth century; however that work fits neither within a European history of art nor within an anthropological notion of 'culture'. How do we think this creativity? And how do we do so without reducing it to a European derivative nor reading it as a sociology of its producer? That is, while still considering it as 'art'? It might be considered art, not because we assimilate it to a trans-historical concept of art as an earlier anthropology of art had done, but because it has a European genealogy. How, though, in coming to function in historical circumstances different from those in which they developed, and in response to specific events, do these art forms exceed that genealogy? How do we think the institutional forms, such as publishing houses and galleries, that condition them, the legal regimes that govern them, and the different politics they elicit? How do we think their circulation and legibility (or illegibility) in current transnational markets, where recognition is unequally distributed, some get prizes, published, profiled in international media, and others don't? What kind of thinking might an anthropology of art enable over and against the anthropology of media and the anthropology of aesthetics?

Papers will present concrete work that examines the displacements and reconfigurations art forms (painting, literature, performance, film, video) undergo in their migration from their European origin; interactions with other aesthetic traditions; questions of authorship

and censorship; the conduits through which certain forms are made legible and circulate in a global, transnational marketplaces (book fairs, biennales, etc.).

Please submit abstracts of no more than 250 words to saleemha@berkeley.edu and lizkelley@berkeley.edu by March 10, 2012.

Reference:

CFP: The New Anthropology of Art (San Francisco, 14-18 Nov 12). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 28, 2012 (accessed Jul 31, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/2800>>.