

Baroque Tendencies in Contemp. Art (Nashville, 25–28 Oct 06)

Kelly Wacker

Call for Papers

Baroque Tendencies in Contemporary Art

South East College Art Conference

Nashville, Tennessee (USA)

October 25-28, 2006

Terms used to define Baroque art often include the following: dramatic, emotional, excessive, extravagant, irregular, serial/cyclical, spectacle, transgressive, vulgar. Such descriptive characteristics of the Baroque can also be applied to contemporary art trends. For example, the multimedia work of Matthew Barney can be understood as a contemporary example of the Baroque concept of *gesamtkunstwerk*, or, a "synthesis of the arts." Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century scholars saw the Baroque as a degenerative style bracketed by periods of rationality (the Renaissance and the Neoclassical).

The Baroque is now currently envisioned as a period of pluralistic contrasts, not dichotomies. This is not unlike our own time, a fluid Postmodern period emerging from the rigid formalism of High Modernism. This issue of a contemporary Baroque has been explored in the fields of film history and popular culture studies, notably Angela Ndalianis', "Neo-Baroque Aesthetics and Contemporary Entertainment" (2004), but there is little discourse regarding such tendencies specific to contemporary art.

This session seeks papers and presentations that will promote discussion and understanding of Baroque tendencies in contemporary art practice. Scholarly papers and presentations by practicing artists will also be considered.

Send proposals (300 word maximum) and a short curriculum vitae to:

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Deadline: May 15, 2006

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