

Pierre Restany's Half Century (Paris, 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2006)

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Pierre Restany's Half Century
International Colloquium
30 November – 1 December 2006

Auditorium of the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art (INHA) PARIS

Organisers

Archives de la Critique d'Art
International Association of Art Critics (AICA)
Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art

Scientific Committee

Nicolas Bourriaud, Richard Leeman, Henry Meyric Hughes, Jean-Marc Poinot

This colloquium starts from the assumption that it is possible to reconstruct a history of the art of the second half of the twentieth century through the activity, writings, networks and campaigns of Pierre Restany. Doubtless this will be a partial history, in both senses of the word, and a history that will be distinctly off-centre, at both a geographical and a theoretical level, in relation to other narratives of this period. Going on from there, however, we also have to ask what kind history of art, of modernity, of the avant-gardes and of post modernism the historian maybe able to construct, from the example offered by Restany's career and activity as a critic.

We shall be able, with the help of a range of specialists in twentieth century art and art criticism, to single out the most significant lines of research for evaluating and interpreting the writings and archives assembled by a critic, observer, theorist and highly unusual, active participant in events, who left a lasting mark on the international art scene.

The Colloquium will be held in French and English; it will consist of plenary sessions, mainly in the form of lectures, discussions, testimonies, alternating with five academic sessions, which form the basis for this call for papers.

The proceedings of the colloquium will be published in 2007.

As a contribution to the event, the Archives de la Critique d'Art will offer

special facilities to researchers wishing to work on its holdings of archival material on Pierre Restany. Further details of these will be communicated to interested enquirers.

Academic sessions:

1) Geographies

An expanded Europe - East Europe and the Balkans; the American adventure; the expedition to Amazonia; travels in the Far East; courses in Tokyo; Latin America.

2) Actions

The École de Paris, Nouveau Réalisme, May 68, the Manifestos ('Le petit livre rouge de la révolution picturale', 'Le livre blanc de l'art total', 'Manifeste du naturalisme intégral'); the spectacular actions and happenings; art and technology (incl. Mec Art); the years 1990-2000; architecture, nature, culture.

3) Networks

The Italian baptism, G.C. Argan; AICA; Domus, Ars; the collaborations (Cahanne, Ragon, Pluchart ...); dealers, collectors, galleries, publishers; Restany, as critic and collector; European itineraries; biennials and juries (Paris, São Paulo, Tokyo ...).

4) Writings

Criticism as a literary genre and questions of style; criticism as an artistic practice; a critical 'oeuvre'?; the poetic work and his preoccupation with style; the poetry.

5) Histories

History, according to Restany; the writings; history after Restany: the archives; critical discourse and historical discourse; history as critical argument; from action to archive.

Proposals for papers should be e-mailed to us, at the address below, before 3d July 2006. They should take the form of a résumé of no more than 1500 signs and be accompanied by your full personal details (name, contact details, institution).

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Reference:

CFP: Pierre Restany's Half Century (Paris, 30 Nov - 1 Dec 06). In: ArtHist.net, May 30, 2006 (accessed Jan

7, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/28270>>.