

Einfuehlung (Berlin, 7-9 Dec 06)

Robin Curtis

Einfuehlung

On the History and the Contemporary Significance of an Aesthetic Concept
International Conference in Berlin
from December 7th to 9th, 2006

Although the notion of empathy has increasingly played a part in discussions about the nature of the viewer's emotional involvement with images (whether those images be time-based or still) the more expansive possibilities for intersubjectivity which were suggested in the lively discussions of *Empathie* und *Einfuehlung* that took place around the turn of the twentieth century in the realms of psychology, art history and aesthetics have seldom been brought to bear in contemporary scholarship. The work of the German Psychologist and aesthete Theodor Lipps is representative: the peculiarity of Lipps' approach to the notion of empathy (or *Einfuehlung* as he termed it) is that he described it as an involuntary, instinctual, kinaesthetic form of mimicry, that, crucially, could also be directed towards inanimate objects, such as spaces, colours or sounds, as well as (more typically) animals or other humans. This all-encompassing relationship of extreme proximity to one's environment is a fruitful point of departure for more contemporary discussions of embodiment and aesthetic experience.

The conference "Einfuehlung - On the History and the Contemporary Significance of an Aesthetic Concept" seeks both to investigate the complexity of the historical antecedents to the term "empathy" and to return them to their context within a debate, which took place between extremely diverse scholars, from proponents of metaphysical and animistic theories to those representing experimental psychological perspectives. In this context we hope in turn to elucidate some contemporary issues important to questions of aesthetic reception, regarding, to name only a few, the nature of the viewer's emotional involvement, the space of reception, or the concept of immersion.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, December 7, 2006 -- 9pm
Film programme

at Kino Arsenal

Potsdamer Platz, Potsdamer Straße 2

10785 Berlin

Programme at <http://www.fdk-berlin.de/de/arsenal/programm.html>

Friday December 8, 2006

Auditorium, Institute for Theater Studies (Theaterwissenschaft)

Freie Universitaet Berlin,

Grunewaldstr. 35, 12165 Berlin-Dahlem

10 am Welcome -- Gertrud Koch

10:00-10.30 am Robin Curtis (Freie Universitaet Berlin)

Einfuehrung in die Einfuehlung

(Introduction to Einfuehlung)

10:30-11:30 am Joseph Imorde (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rom)

Einfuehlung in der Kunstgeschichte

(Einfuehlung in Art History)

11:30am -12:30 pm Frederic Schwartz (University College London)

The Adequacy of Empathy:

Problems of an Art-Historical Concept

12:30-2:00 pm Lunch Break

2:00-3:00 pm Christiane Voss (Freie Universitaet Berlin)

Einfuehlung und affektives Verstehen bei Hume und Lipps

(Einfuehlung and affective understanding in Hume and Lipps)

3:00-3.30 pm Coffee Break

3:30-4:30 pm Ed S. Tan (University of Amsterdam)

Why people are very good at einfuehlen,

but do not do it all the time.

4:30-5:30 Uhr Christine Noll Brinckmann (Universitaet Zurich / Berlin)

Empathischer Genuss in Eric de Kuypers Casta-Diva-Sequenz

(Empathic Pleasure in Eric de Kuyper's Casta-Diva Sequence)

Saturday December 9, 2006

Auditorium, Institute for Theater Studies (Theaterwissenschaft)

Freie Universitaet Berlin

Grunewaldstr. 35, 12165 Berlin-Dahlem

10:00-11:00 am Antonia Lant (New York University)

La vie en arabesque: Germaine Dulac on viewing film.

11:00 am -12:00 pm

Giuliana Bruno (Harvard University)
The Laboratory of Affects: Film, Aesthetics, Science

12:00-1:00 pm

Scott Curtis (Northwestern University)
Raumgefuehl, Einfuehlung, and Early German Film Theory

1:00-2:30 pm Lunch Break

2:30 - 3:30 pm Kirsten Wagner (Humboldt Universitaet Berlin)
Die Beseelung der Architektur. Empathie und
architektonischer Raum
(Animated Architecture: Empathy and architectural Space)

3:30-4:30 pm Zeynep Celik (MIT / Max Planck Institut Berlin)
Obrist, Endell, and the Science of Emotive Effect

4:30 pm Closing Comments

Conceptualization and Organisation:
Dr. Robin Curtis, Prof. Dr. Gertrud Koch, Marc Gloede

Hosted by:
Project B11 "Synaesthetic Effects: Kinetics and Colour in Film"
Collaborative Research Centre 447 "Cultures of Performativity"

For more information contact:
Freie Universitaet Berlin
Grunewaldstr. 35, 12165 Berlin
Tel. +49 (0)30 838 503 39
Email: rcurtis@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Programme:
<http://www.sfb-performativ.de/>

Conference Venue
Auditorium at the Institute Theater Studies (Theaterwissenschaft)
At the Freie Universitaet Berlin
Grunewaldstr. 35, 12165 Berlin-Dahlem
U-Bahn Rathaus Steglitz; S-Bahn Steglitz.

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Reference:
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<<https://arthist.net/archive/28723>>.