

## Photography after Conceptual Art (London, 2-4 Apr 08)

Margaret Iversen

Call for submissions

Association of Art Historians.

Annual Conference, London, 2-4 April 2008.

Session: Photography After Conceptual Art.

<http://aah.org.uk/conference/index.php>

Deadline: 16 November 2007

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The title of this session can be taken in two directions. One can, with Jeff Wall, see conceptual photography as 'the last moment of the pre-history of photography as art' and so see the large-scale, colour photography of Thomas Demand, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth and Wall himself, as the realisation of the ambition of the medium to become an autonomous art form. Certainly, it has been welcomed by the museum, market and many critics as such. Alternatively, the title might gesture in the direction of contemporary work that more clearly bears the traces of its passage through conceptual art. Much of the work that could be described in these terms is often produced by artists who employ photography alongside a range of other artistic media and activities to achieve their goals - Francis Alÿs, Sophie Calle, James Coleman, Tacita Dean, Louise Lawler and Gabriel Orozco.

In the former case, photography holds its rightful place as a medium among other autonomous art forms; in the latter, photographic practices tend to blur the boundaries between the arts. Do these twin poles of the pictorial and the conceptual continue to organize the field of photography as a medium for contemporary art? Should photography be approached through aesthetic categories that apply more generally to pictorial arts or does it require a distinct framework to do justice to its specificity as both a medium and a technical apparatus?

This session, which seeks to open up a debate about what is at stake in

contemporary photographic art, forms part of large AHRC-funded research project, Aesthetics after Photography, concerning the challenges of recent art photography to aesthetic theory. Papers that engage with substantive theoretical or aesthetic issues raised by post-1960s photography as an artistic medium would therefore be welcome, particularly in light of the oft-heard claim that the arts now inhabits a 'post-medium' condition. Proposals from artists, curators and academics are invited

If you want to propose a paper for this session, please complete a  
<<http://aah.org.uk/photos/File/paperproposalform2008.doc>>  
Paper Proposal Form by 16 November 2007 and return it to the session convenors:

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Reference:

CFP: Photography after Conceptual Art (London, 2-4 Apr 08). In: ArtHist.net, Aug 27, 2007 (accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/29507>>.