Part13 - Art and Religion

Daniel Quiles

Call for Papers

PART13: Higher Power/Lower Power: Art and Religion

[I]n divine love the freezing gleam of a sadistic skeleton is infinitely unveiled. Revolt-its face distorted by amorous ecstasy-tears from God his naïve mask, and thus oppression collapses in the crash of time. Catastrophe is that by which a nocturnal horizon is set ablaze, that for which lacerated existence goes into a trance-it is the Revolution-it is time released fro m all bonds; it is pure change; it is a skeleton that emerges from its cadaver as from a cocoon and that sadistically lives the unreal existence of death.
-Georges Bataille, "Sacrifices"

Art has traditionally been inseparable from religion; Western art in the past few hundred years has been the anomaly. Although the role of religion in the modern era has by no means been ignored, there remain numerous avenues of investigation yet to be explored. While the hyperbolically optimistic, transcendental, quasi-religious visions of Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky are well known, Bataille's formulation cited above suggests other, less well-traveled lines of research, such as the grimmer side of modernist rupture and upheaval. This would comprise not just modernity's tendency towards death and destruction but what Bataille sees, in primitivizing terms, as a paradoxical temporal regression: in what is to be a world "beyond" religion, one finds persistence, via fascism and capitalism alike , of religious economies of sacrifice. This, of course, is just one case among many. We might also consider religion's hand, in all eras, in the development of hybrid forms, the conflation of art and sociopolitical movements, and the prolongation of the tradition of state-sponsored religious art and architecture.

Our aim for this issue of PART would be a collection of heterogeneous studies from a variety of different geographical and temporal contexts, exploring any dimension of the historical interrelations between religion and art, visual culture, or architecture. We are interested in historical studies as well as creative texts for our "Practice" section and criticism of contemporary art. Submissions should be no longer than twenty-five double-spaced pages. Please email submissions to koyaanisquiles@gmail.com or dsingsen@gc.cuny.edu by November 30, 2007.

PART12 is online: http://dsc.gc.cuny.edu/part/.

PART is also currently assembling a blog for upcoming exhibitions and symposia. If you are organizing or are aware of any events in the coming academic year, please send posts to dsingsen@hotmail.com.

Reference:
CFP: Part13 - Art and Religion. In: ArtHist.net, Sep 25, 2007 (accessed Nov 23, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/29624>.