

## Learning from the Masters (Plymouth, 9-11 May 08)

Matthew Potter

### Call for Papers

Learning from the Masters:

The use of art history by artist-teachers

Conference Date: 9-11 May 2008

University of Plymouth

This conference will seek to explore the role played by art history in the teaching practices of artists in art academies, private art schools, art colleges, polytechnics, and universities. Sir Joshua Reynolds advertised the centrality of art history in his own educational philosophy in his 1774 Discourse on the Arts, when he declared that 'The great use of studying our predecessors is to open the mind, to shorten our labour, and to give us the result of the selection made by those great minds of what is grand or beautiful in nature.' We invite papers that explore the agency of texts, surviving artworks or personal recollections of artists' lives and teachings, as positive or negative factors in the formation of the teaching practices, lecturing, or writings of their successors. How has the relationship between fine art and art history, manifest in this way, impacted on the relative disciplinary ethos of the subjects? In what ways has the Vasarian obsession with the individual impacted on subsequent pedagogical perspectives? How have past art historical examples been used to buttress the orthodox or anti-establishment identities of later art teachers and the institutional climates in which they have worked? What relationships have been constructed between art history, pedagogy and ideology in the teaching of art? How has the gendered concept of the Old Masters been perpetuated and/or challenged by artist teachers?

Engagements with these questions and other allied lines of inquiry are invited on subjects from 1700 to the present day. Individual case studies and thematic surveys will be welcome. The deadline for submission is 31st March 2008 and proposals of 100 words for single papers or 500 words for panels, together with any inquiries concerning the conference should be sent to Matthew Potter at

ArtHist.net

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or see the website at

[www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/vande2008](http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/vande2008)

Reference:

CFP: Learning from the Masters (Plymouth, 9-11 May 08). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 5, 2008 (accessed Jul 6, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/30137>>.