Iconology meets Anthropology (Leuven, 7 Mar 08)

Ann Sophie Lehmann

Iconology meets Anthropology - an International conference hosted by the Iconology Research Group, 7 March 2008, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Aby Warburg might be regarded as the initiator of the relation between iconology and anthropology at a moment in time when both fields had barely been established as disciplines. Today, as we have entered what might be called the millennium of images, iconology is taking on new areas of research and is in the process of being redefined as a discipline that could encompass the study of image making, image meaning, image perception and image distribution in the scientific, political and cultural domains of the visual world; and to make the field even wider, also beyond the visual, because as W.T.J. Mitchell and others before him have pointed out, there is no pure visuality and therefore no visual culture, because images are perceived with a much wider array of senses than sight only. It may be because of this universal approach that iconology has a certain kinship with anthropology; a discipline that Bruno Latour described as the only one that can study how a certain culture ?does? science and critical theory, religion and politics, without excluding any possible outcome a priori. An important binding element and point of departure for a discussion of the current relation between the two is certainly the body. Hans Belting has recently proposed a new approach to iconology, which he calls Bild-Anthropologie. Here, he foregrounds the perceiving and performing body as a prerequisite to understand, project, produce and remember images. Herman Roodenburg in turn has shown how images were imprinted onto the body and transformed into physical reality. Paul Vandenbroeck explored and unveiled the place of the body and the image in the matrixial systems, a world that goes even beyond the classical notions of the bodily and the visual medium, and introduces epistemologies of ?abstract?, of ?chaos?.

If can iconology today gain from an anthropological approach and what exactly is the role of the body in this cooperation? The Iconology Research Group has invited international speakers and young scholars to discuss these questions, to revisit the original and recent relations of the fields and to present examples of a fruitful collaboration between iconology and anthropology from current research projects.

PROGRAM

9:30 Introduction and welcome by Barbara Baert (IRG/Leuven) and Ann-Sophie Lehmann
(IRG/Utrecht)

Session 1 | Why Anthropology?

10:00 Herman Roodenburg (Amsterdam-Leuven)
Iconology, visual studies and sensuous anthropology. Some recent developments

11:00 Paul Vandenbroeck (Leuven)
Matrix marmorea

Session 2 | Aby Warburg today

12:15 Barbara Wittmann (Berlin)
Indian rituals and children?s drawings. Reflections on Aby Warburg?s anthropology

Session 3 | Iconology meets Anthropology in current projects

15:00 Jan Van der Stock (Leuven)
Rogier van der Weyden and Leuven
15:45 Bert Watteeuw (Leuven)
Anthropology of the portrait. practices of portraiture in seventeenth century Flanders
16:30 Liesbet Kusters (Leuven)
From ?Noli me tangere? to ?Haemorrhoissa?
17:15 Coffee break

Session 4 | Iconology meets Anthropology in the arts
17:30 Jeroen Laureyns (Gent)
?Bild-Anthropologie? and contemporary art . Art critical reflexions reaching for the hand of Hans Belting
18:15 Wim Lambrecht (Gent)
About soundseeing and emotioned audibility

When
March 7, 2008
Where
Justus Lipsiuslokaal Erasmushuis
8th floor
Blijde-Inkomststraat 21
3000 Leuven
Please register by e-mail
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