

The Classical Unconscious (CAA Los Angeles 2009)

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Call for Papers:

Session Title: The Classical Unconscious

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deadline, May 9, 2008

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An odd vision of the ancient world emerged in the last decades of the nineteenth- and early-twentieth centuries, between roughly 1850 and 1914. This vision transformed an exhausted classical aesthetic rehearsed in academies into a vital but subjective, a-historical, and sometimes disquietingly disjointed or darkly libidinal idiom that will be less antiquarian, erudite narrative and more metaphorical, generic "reservoir of human models and symbols" --in Carl Schorske's words--with immediate relevance to the present. Can we find answers for this idiosyncratic, fractioned evocation of classical antiquity in the period's changing cultural climate? Papers are invited that explore the transmutation of the idea of Classicism in Europe under the impact of modernist forces, including, among others, imperialist expansion, globalism and nationalism, the rise of scientific archaeology, evolutionist theories, an explosive popular culture, and philosophical-psychological forays into the realm of the unconscious (Nietzsche, von Hartmann, Freud, the latter also a collector of antiquities).

Reference:

CFP: The Classical Unconscious (CAA Los Angeles 2009). In: ArtHist.net, May 6, 2008 (accessed Apr 6, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/30510>>.