

The Art Work between Technology and Nature (Copenhagen, Jan 2010)

Jacob Wamberg

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CALL FOR PAPERS: The Art Work between Technology and Nature

International conference at Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen,
21-23 January 2010

Occasioned by the exhibitions *Nature Strikes Back!* and *Impact: Living in the age of climate change*, running in parallel to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, this art historical conference will explore the relationship between art, nature and technology. The present climatic crisis foregrounds the observation that during the last century human technology has come to play a crucial role in the overall behaviour of nature, both as a disturber of ecological balances and as a potential healer of them.

Parallel to this development, art seems to have become more closely involved with both nature and technology, challenging on the one hand conceptions of art contemplating nature as a distant landscape and, on the other, art as being foreign to the social interaction and physical dynamics of technology. These approaches often highlight art's critical and reflective function, and yet in art's very interchange with nature and technology there are certain reminiscences from the ancient and medieval periods in which art and technology were aspects of a common area of cultivated products and their methods – the Latin *ars* and the Greek *technè* – and in which this area was thought to function according to principles imitating nature.

Papers are therefore invited which focus on these post-modern convergences or present a historical perspective in which their forerunners in the modern and pre-modern periods are exposed. Potential questions to be addressed include: In which ways has art been related to the two domains of nature and technology in different historical epochs? Have they been coordinated to harmonising syntheses or rather placed in fields of antagonism? Do they share certain genetic principles or are they created according to different paradigms?

Send a proposal of no more than 400 words to:

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Deadline for abstracts: 4 September 2009

Reference:

CFP: The Art Work between Technology and Nature (Copenhagen, Jan 2010). In: Arthist.net, Apr 7, 2009
(accessed Jan 19, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/31459>>.