

Networks & Sociability in East European Art (London, 23 Oct 10)

Maja & Reuben Fowkes

Proposals for papers and presentations are invited from art historians, curators and artists that examine the art and visual culture of Eastern Europe in both historical and contemporary contexts. The SocialEast Seminar on Networks and Sociability in East European Art will be held at the Courtauld Institute of Art on 23 October 2010.

The SocialEast Seminar on "Networks and Sociability in East European Art" provides a forum for the presentation of new research into practices of informal exchange and patterns of alternative communication between experimental artists in the Eastern Bloc. This seminar explores the ways in which unauthorised artistic ideas were able to transgress national and ideological boundaries through networks of friendship and artistic collaboration that flew in the face of an official culture of isolationism, censorship and political control. It focuses on processes of artistic exchange that took shape at a grass-roots level, inventive strategies to surmount bureaucratic obstacles, and the specific meaning of 'networking'¹ in the context of communist Eastern Europe. The seminar also considers the degree to which state-sponsored artistic events, held for Cold War propaganda reasons, could become spaces for unofficial exchange, the roles available to exiled artists and intellectuals in facilitating international communication, collaboration and the circulation of materials, as well as the contribution of curators and intellectuals from the far side of the Iron Curtain in creating informal networks.

The SocialEast Forum <<http://www.socialeast.org>> is a platform for innovative, transnational research on the art and visual culture of Eastern Europe initiated by Dr. Reuben Fowkes in 2006. Based on active collaboration with institutes of art history across Europe and the involvement of prominent academics, curators and artists, SocialEast has become an internationally-recognised generator of pioneering research into the art history of Eastern Europe during the Cold War. This second SocialEast Seminar at the Courtauld Institute follows on from the SocialEast Seminar on Art and Espionage held in February 2009 and co-organised with Dr. Sarah Wilson. Previous SocialEast Seminars have dealt with issues of Foreign Experience, Art and Ideology, Art and Documentary, Art and Revolution, Art

and Memory, Art and Empire and the Legacy of 1968 and were held at Manchester Art Gallery, the Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art Budapest, Krakow University, and Mimara Museum Zagreb.

The SocialEast Seminar on Networks and Sociability in East European Art is organised in collaboration with Dr. Klara Kemp-Welch of the Courtauld Institute as part of a three year Leverhulme Trust funded project entitled Festivals and Friendships: Networking the Soviet ŒBloc¹, examining unofficial exchange between artists from East-Central Europe and former Yugoslavia in the 1960s and 1970s. The seminar is supported by the Leverhulme Trust and the Courtauld Institute Research Forum.

To propose a paper for the SocialEast Seminar on Networks and Sociability in East European Art, please send a 200 word proposal and biographical note to info@socialeast.org <mailto:info@socialeast.org>

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **Monday 15 March 2010**.

Reference:

CFP: Networks & Sociability in East European Art (London, 23 Oct 10). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 5, 2010 (accessed Dec 18, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/32344>>.