

## The Vernacular Revival & Universal Language of Visual Form (Krakow, 17-18 Sep 12)

The Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, Sep 17-18, 2012

Registration deadline: Aug 15, 2012

Grace Brockington

The Vernacular Revival and the Universal Language of Visual Form

venue: Institute of Art History, Jagiellonian University, Grodzka 53  
Kraków, Poland

This workshop examines the idea of a universal language of visual form, as it developed through the vernacular revival at the fin de siècle. The geographical reach of the workshop is broad, with papers on the Czech-speaking lands, Finland, France, Japan, New Zealand and Poland. In all these places, the vernacular was seen to embody local traditions, but it also encouraged new interpretations of the connections between art in different localities. The sense of affinity between different vernaculars stimulated the search for an international 'language' of art, based on a shared 'alphabet' of basic forms such as line, ornament and geometry. The notion of form as language, in the context of national revivals and the formation of international networks, will be the focus of our discussion.

The workshop will take place in Kraków, which at the turn of the twentieth century became a centre of Polish art and architecture. On the second day there will be a field trip to Zakopane, where Stanisław Witkiewicz created the national "Zakopane Style", which was in part a response to the British Arts and Crafts Movement.

Programme:

9.00: Introductions

Andrzej Szczerski (The Jagiellonian University, Krakow)

Grace Brockington (ICE network convenor, University of Bristol)

9.30-11:

Alison Smith (Tate Britain) 'Pre-Raphaelitism in Poland'

Piotr Kopszak (The National Museum, Warsaw) 'Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and his French-Polish-English interests'

11-11.30: coffee

11.30-1:

Leonard Bell (University of Auckland), 'Synthesising Maori and Jugendstil'

ornamental motifs in early C20th New Zealand: towards a "universal language of form" and a nationally distinctive settler-colonial design'  
Andrew Ginger (University of Bristol), 'Spanish vernaculars at the fin de siecle'

1-2: lunch

2-3.30:

Charlotte Ashby (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Building in wood: Finnish ornament and international models'

Marta Filipova (University of Wolverhampton), 'Reconciling modernism: the vernacular revival, nationalism and modernism in the Czech-speaking lands'

3.30-4 tea

4-5.30:

Helena Capkova (Waseda University), 'Bohemian Japonisme in the context of the vernacular revival at the fin de siecle'

Andzej Szczerski (The Jagiellonian University), 'Zakopane style and its internationalist agenda'

5.30-6.30: final discussion

7.30: dinner

For more information see the website:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/ice/events/2012/2.html>

or contact: Grace Brockington, [iceresearchnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:iceresearchnetwork@gmail.com)

the programme can also be accessed here:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/ice/events/krakowprogramme.html>

Reference:

CONF: The Vernacular Revival & Universal Language of Visual Form (Krakow, 17-18 Sep 12). In: ArtHist.net, Jul 10, 2012 (accessed Aug 2, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/3565>>.