

Mannerism and Crisis (Boston, 20–22 Mar 25)

Boston, Mar 20–22, 2025

Deadline: Jun 25, 2024

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When Mannerism emerged as a field of art historical study during the first part of the twentieth century, it was construed as a moment of crisis. To proponents of *Geistesgeschichte* such as Max Dvořák, Walter Friedlaender, and Erwin Panofsky or Marxists like Friedrich Antal and Arnold Hauser, Mannerism became a token of crises, either of a philosophical and existential nature or an outcome of tensions in the socio-economic base. Much criticism of these scholarly approaches has since emerged from different ideological and methodological perspectives, including that of John Shearman who during the 1960s argued for a “stylish style,” indifferent to societal change. The aim of this session is not to rehearse the historiography but to reconsider Mannerism and ruptures in the social fabric during man-made or natural disasters and crises. Case studies might address how the ostentatious use of artifice bore meaning beyond purely pictorial concerns, or how the self-referentiality of Mannerism was deployed polemically when the foundation of art was under attack as during the controversy over Michelangelo’s *Last Judgment* or the outbreaks of transalpine iconoclasms.

Papers on works in all media and from a variety of geographical regions are welcome. Please submit an abstract of max. 200 words before June 25 to hansenms@uw.edu.

Organizers:

Elena Calvillo, University of Richmond, VA

Morten Steen Hansen, University of Washington, Seattle

Reference:

CFP: Mannerism and Crisis (Boston, 20-22 Mar 25). In: ArtHist.net, May 30, 2024 (accessed Jun 6, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/42008>>.