

## Neuroarthistory (Norwich, 27-28 Jul 13)

Sainsbury Institute for Art, University of East Anglia, Norwich UK, Jul 27-28, 2013

Deadline: Apr 30, 2013

John Onians

Summer School

Neuroarthistory

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28, July 2013

Director: Prof John Onians; Consultant for Neuroscience:

Prof Adam Zeman with Dr Helen Anderson and Dr Kajsa Berg

Sainsbury Institute for Art

University of East Anglia, Norwich UK

From the Zeitgeist to Mentalités, from Psychoanalysis to Discourse Theory, from Phenomenology to Embodiment, from Post-Structuralism to Agency and the Distributed Mind, the last hundred years have seen the emergence of many new frameworks for understanding the mental and physical activities of artists, patrons and viewers. All of these approaches make assumptions about the brain. Now those assumptions can be tested and refined using the latest neuroscience.

The project is not new. Scholars interested in the history of art, from Winckelmann and Warburg to Gombrich and Baxandall, have long used a knowledge of the brain to enhance their enquiries. The only difference today is that new technologies enable this generation to take those enquiries much further.

This two-day Summer School builds on the Director's experience as co-organiser of the two-week Summer Institute in Neuroscience and the Humanities held in 2011 at the Stanford Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and funded by the Mellon Foundation. It will engage twenty MA, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral students and Junior Faculty in the evaluation and advancement of this challenging new enterprise.

The event, to be held in the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, will review the latest knowledge of the brain and will survey the ways in which this knowledge has been, is and might be used to help in the understanding of art and visual culture. Participants will be encouraged to present their own views on the possibilities for the future within

their own areas of interest.

Envisaged as the precursor of a longer Summer School in 2014, this event is an element in a developing project, promising to give researchers in art/visual culture a role of leadership within the humanities.

Summer School Fees (including refreshments, lunches and accommodation):  
Single £60; Twin £40 (Saturday night).

Members of the Association of Art Historians: Single £50; Twin £30.

Applications, including CV and short statement of interest, are invited from MA, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral students and Junior Faculty working on the art/visual culture of any place or period within the context of any discipline. They, as well as requests for information, should be addressed to John Onians: [j.onians@uea.ac.uk](mailto:j.onians@uea.ac.uk) before April 30.

Reference:

ANN: Neuroarthistory (Norwich, 27-28 Jul 13). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 6, 2013 (accessed May 10, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/4805>>.