

Prismatic Memories (Basel, 22–24 May 25)

eikones Center for the Theory and History of the Image, Forum eikones, Rheinsprung
11, 4051 Basel, May 22–24, 2025

Hella Wiedmer-Newman, University of Basel

Comparative Visual Politics in Post-Yugoslav Countries.

In mainstream discourse, visual memory projects in the countries that once constituted Yugoslavia are often discussed in isolation because of the specific local histories and mythologies they refer to. However, these ostensibly disparate histories, like the light beams refracted through a prism, in fact intersect in aleatory ways. Meanwhile the history of Yugoslavia that unites them all, can manifest quite differently, often influenced by the ideologies that characterized the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

This year, in the context of the thirtieth anniversaries of both the Srebrenica Genocide on July 11, 1995, and the ratification of the Dayton Peace Agreement on November 21, 1995, presents an opportunity to explore the visual memory politics of post-Yugoslav countries – most of them still in a state of neoliberal “transition” – in relation to each other. Attending to the iconographic, narrative, aesthetic and art historical embeddedness of the various displays of memory, whether they take the form of a public memorial, a graffito, an exhibition or another kind of intervention, we are looking at instances of politics – both past and contemporary – becoming visible. We also ask after the infrastructures and administration of such memories, and their (geo)political entanglements. While we are interested in case studies that memorialize a range of historical events, we are especially interested in case studies from after 1999 and the last decade.

This conference assembles scholars working across disciplines to explore visual memory politics in post-Yugoslav countries. Each contributor presents a memory display – museum, temporary exhibition, play, graffito, monument, or public art intervention – foregrounding a different iconographic, narrative, aesthetic or art-historical tradition or tendency. We will also consider the infrastructure and administration of such memory projects. Together, we will examine instances when politics become visible.

Program

Thursday, May 22

18:15 – 19:00

Uroš Čvoro, UNSW Sydney

Keynote, tba

19:00 – 19:30

Q&A

19:30 – 21:30

Apéro riche

Friday, May 23

Histories & Narratives

Moderator: David Bucheli

09:30 – 09:45

Short intro

09:45 – 10:35

Gal Kirn, Univerza v Ljubljani

“From Erasure to Reconciliation to Emancipation: Contested Memory of Women’s Antifascist Protests in Ljubljana”

10:35 – 11:05

Coffee Break

11:05 – 11:55

Arban Mehmeti, Humboldt Universität, Berlin

“The Handke Project: Unheeded Lessons in Memory Culture and Neglect in Western Cultural Discourse”

11:55 – 12:45

Hella Wiedmer-Newman, eikones Center, Basel

“Punking the Protectorate(s): The Montaged Critique of Bojan Stojčić and Mladen Miljanović”

12:45 – 14:15

Lunch

Exhibitionary Politics

Moderator: Olexii Kuchanskyi

14:15 – 15:05

Nataša Jagdhuhn, Humboldt Universität, Berlin

“Transitional Metamuseology: Memorial Centre Lipa Remembers”

15:05 – 15:35

Coffee Break

15:35 – 16:25

Jovanka Popova, Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje

“All that Happened Will Happen Today: The Museum of Contemporary Art – Skopje and its Solidarity Collection”

16:25 – 17:15

Qëndresa Ajeti, Technische Universität München

“Shifting Narratives: Contemporary Visual Memory Projects in Post-War Kosovo”

Saturday, May 24

Activating Publics

Moderator: Anna Hodel Laszlo

09:30 – 10:20

Ana-Maria Milčić, Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, London/Northwestern Polytechnic, The Prairies

“From Commemoration to Confrontation: Monument to Red Rijeka and Yugonostalgia in 2020”

10:20 – 10:50

Coffee Break

10:50 – 11:20

Melody Robine, Sorbonne Université, Paris

“Counter-Mapping Memory: Maja Bajević’s and Hristina Ivanoska’s Feminist Interventions in Urban Space”

11:20 – 12:10

Hana Ćurak, Universität Zürich

“Here For Now: The Post-Yugoslav Diasporic Condition”

12:10 – 12:30

Final Discussion & Wrap-up

<https://eikones.philhist.unibas.ch/de/aktuelles/veranstaltungen/event-details/prismatic-memories-comparative-visual-politics-from-post-yugoslav-countries/>

Reference:

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/49175>>.