ArtHist.net

Interpolations: AI, Art, and Art History (Paris, 8–9 Jul 25)

Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris, Jul 8–09, 2025

Franziska Solte

In the language of machine learning, the term "interpolation" refers to a foundational mathematical technique used to estimate unknown values that fall between known data points. Interpolation allows to fill in missing values in existing datasets, but also to create different kinds of transitions between discrete data points.
In the context of this conference, "interpolation" indicates the intention to reflect on the relations and mutual interactions between the fields of AI, art, and art history.

The conference will analyze how recent developments in the field of both analytic and generative AI have profoundly transformed the ways in which images are captured, generated, modified, seen and de- scribed, and how contemporary artists have tackled the increasing presence of AI systems, with all their epistemological and political implications, across all layers of culture and society. It will also address the question of whether traditional art-historical and media-theoretical concepts allow us to fully grasp the current, tectonic shifts, or whether new concepts and categories are needed.

The conference is structured into four panels and will include a guided tour of the exhibition "The World Through AI/Le monde selon l'IA", a screening of recent AI films by Alexander Kluge, and a conversation with the author.

TUESDAY, JULY 8th
Venue: German Center for Art history (DfK Paris)

9.15-9.30
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Noam M. Elcott (Columbia University, New York), Peter Geimer (DFK Paris), and Antonio Somaini (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle/Institut Universitaire de France, Paris)

AI AND ART HISTORY (9.30 – 12.45)
Chair: Alban Leveau-Vallier (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris)

9.30
Ada Ackerman (CNRS Paris): Counterfactual Art Histories?

10.10
Béatrice Joyeux-Prunel (University of Geneva): Embracing Bias, Noise, and Absence. Rethinking the Conditions for Using AI Critically in Art History

10.50 – 11.10
Coffee Break

11.10
Leonardo Impett (Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome/University of Cambridge): Vector Media: Towards a Historical Epistemolog y of Machine Vision

11.50
Andrea Pinotti (University of Milan): Who's Who? "Art History Without Names" Put to the Test of NST

12.30
Panel Discussion

12.45 – 14.00
Lunch Break

AI AND CONTEMPORARY ART (14.00 – 16.35)
Chair: Alexandra Gilliams (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University)

14.00
Grégory Chatonsky (Paris/Montreal): The White Cube in The Latent Space Ideology

14.40
Egor Kraft (Tokyo/Berlin/Vienna): Cognitectures, Engineered Cognoscapes, One & Infinite Chairs

15.20 – 15.40
Coffee Break

15.40
Noam Segal (Guggenheim Museum, New York): Toward a New Vocabulary of Art and Representation

16.20 – 16.35
Panel Discussion

18.00 – 20.00
Venue: Jeu de Paume
SCREENING OF AI FILMS by ALEXANDER KLUGE
The screening is introduced by Alexander Kluge in conversation with Peter Geimer and Antonio Somaini, and followed by a Q&A session.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9th
Venue: German Center for Art History (DfK Paris)

AI AND PHOTOGRAPHY (9.15 – 12.25)
Chair: Max Bonhomme (University of Strasbourg)

9.15

Noam Elcott (Columbia University, New York): The Return of Studium: Physiognomic Vision, AI, and Photographic Vibes

9.55
Peter Geimer (DFK Paris): The End of Photographic Testimony – But the Beginning of What? Reflections on "Alternative Facts"

10.35 – 10.50
Coffee Break

10.50
Estelle Blaschke (University of Basel): The Postmodern Archive. From 1839 to AI

11.30
Michelle Kuo (Museum of Modern Art, New York): t.b.a.

12.10 – 12.25
Panel Discussion

12.25 – 13.15
Lunch Break

AI AND VISUAL THEORY (13.15 – 16.30)
Chair: Barnabé Sauvage (CNRS Paris)

13.15
Roland Meyer (University of Zurich/Zurich University of the Arts): Dreamworlds of Platform Capitalism: Networked Image Cultures after Generative AI

13.55
Emmanuel Alloa (University of Fribourg): Computational Art After Vilém Flusser – or: Why Digital Images don't Exist

14.35 – 14.50
Coffee Break

14.50
Bernard Geoghegan (University of Basel): Degenerative AI

15.30
Antonio Somaini (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle/
Institut Universitaire de France, Paris): Latent Spaces as Meta-Archives

16.10 – 16.30
Panel and Final Discussion

17.00 – 19.00
Venue: Jeu de Paume
Visit to the Exhibition: "The World Through AI / Le monde selon l'IA"

The conference is organized by the German Center for Art History Paris (DFK Paris) in collaboration with the Jeu de Paume, where the exhibition "The World Through AI/Le monde selon l'IA" is currently on view until 21 September 2025. Concept: Noam M. Elcott (Columbia University, New York), Peter Geimer (DFK Paris), and Antonio Somaini (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle/Institut Universitaire de France, Paris).

No registration required.

Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte
Centre allemand d'histoire de l'art Paris
45, rue des Petits Champs
75001 Paris

Jeu de Paume
1 place de la Concorde
Jardin des Tuileries
75001 Paris

Reference:

CONF: Interpolations: AI, Art, and Art History (Paris, 8-9 Jul 25). In: ArtHist.net, Jun 30, 2025 (accessed Apr 17, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/49601>.