

Aesthetics of Solace, Politics of Care (online/Florence, 11-12 Jun 26)

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut (Florence, Italy), Jun
11–12, 2026

Natalie Arrowsmith

Transdisciplinary Workshop at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut organized by Hana Gründler and Alejandro Nodarse Jammal and the Research Group Ethico-Aesthetics of the Visual.

“The world will look different if we move care from its current peripheral location to a place near the center of human life,” wrote Joan Tronto in *Moral Boundaries* (1993). Three decades later, this workshop takes Tronto’s claim as a point of departure and critical reassessment, asking how care—in its aesthetic, ethical, and political dimensions, from antiquity to the present—has made the world look different. How have individual forms of solace, including those embedded in artistic production and reception, been mobilized toward political ends? When has care, in claiming new ethical potentials, sought to distance itself from earlier aesthetic norms? And when does care of oneself (re)emerge as a form of political dissidence?

Across two days, fourteen speakers approach care and solace as historically contingent and politically fraught. Resisting purely affirmational or presentist accounts, they draw attention to the structures that mediate care: systems of governance and surveillance, regimes of labor and institutionalization, and the shaping of identity along gendered and racialized lines. Together, the speakers offer alternative genealogies of care and solace—and consider their critical futures.

Venue:

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51, 50122 Firenze

& on Zoom (Not Recorded)

This will be a hybrid event.

VENUE

Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51
50122 Firenze, Italia

To participate online please register in advance via Zoom:
https://eu02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_9JC2j0qQzqtIla5fJZ2pQ#/registration

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Programme:

DAY 1 – Thursday, JUNE 11

14:00–14:20 Welcome and Introduction

Hana Gründler and Alejandro Nodarse Jammal

Structuring and Mediating Care

Chair: Mimi Cheng

14:20–14:40 Daphne Martin

Aesthetics of Care at the Ancient Greek Tomb

14:40–15:00 Tatiana Carbonell

Masses in Motion: The Promise of Governing Catastrophe in the Alpine Nineteenth Century

15:00–15:30 Response and Discussion

15:30–15:50 Break

Alternative Genealogies of Care

Chair: Oliver Aas

15:50–16:10 Nanne Buurman

Ambivalences of Care: A Genealogy of Curatorial Morality and the Dark Side of the Cura

16:10–16:30 Hannah Chodura

Progress(ion) in the Ruins? – On Negative Dimensions of Care

16:30–17:00 Response and Discussion

17:00–17:20 Break

Surveillance and Visibility

Chair: Frida Sandström

17:20–17:40 Alexandre Diallo

Solace Under Surveillance: Care as a Criterion of Recognition in Killing Eve

17:40–18:00 Paula Muhr

Withdrawing Care, Seeking Solace: Functional Seizures and the Ethics and Aesthetics of Visibility

18:00–18:30 Response and Discussion

18:30–18:45 Break

18:45–20:30

Screening of Caterina Borelli's Film *The House He Built* (76 min.)

Chair: Alejandro Nodarse Jammal

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Labor, Institutions, Identities: I

Chair: Katharine Stahlbuhk

9:00–9:20 Giovanni Vito Distefano

Imagining Institutional Care for Madness: An Inquiry into Sixteenth-Century Italian Literature

9:20–9:40 Lorenzo Graf

New Age Solace in the Name of (Psychiatric) Care: Dressing Our Wounds in Warm Clothes (1980)
by Donna Henes at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center

9:40–10:10 Response and Discussion

10:10–10:30 Coffee Break

Labor, Institutions, Identities: II

Chair: Eva Schreiner

10:30–10:50 Lexington Davis

Homemaking in the Women's Prison: Groupe de Cinq's La Roquette, prison de femmes (1974–75)

10:50–11:10 Serena Pacchiani

'Il tempio, il loro tempio' ('A Temple, Their Temple'): Care, Artistic Patronage, and the Politics of
Disabled Artists in Fascist Italy

11:10–11:40 Response and Discussion

Consolatory Spaces and Futures

Chair: Laura Valterio

13:15–13:45 Rosemarie Garland-Thomson and Virginia Marano

From Orphanage to Museum: An Account of Adaptive Reuse at the Museo degli Innocenti

13:45–14:05 Jade de Montserrat

Every Single One of Them: Ours Is a Love Ethic

14:05–14:35 Response and Discussion

Closing Remarks

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Reference:

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