Thinking the Contemporary Landscape (Hanover, 20–22 Jun 13)

Hanover, Jun 20–22, 2013

Dora Imhof

International Conference

Thinking the Contemporary Landscape - Positions & Oppositions

20-22 June 2013
Herrenhausen Palace, Hanover, Germany

Landscape finds its roots in the Old Dutch word Landskip, which designates a stretch of cultivated land. Similarly, paysage in French stems from the Latin word pagus, meaning peasant, which designates an extent of land made by that same person. In other words landscape is the belaboured making of humans, and has nothing to do with the ideal of an untouched wilderness. This plain definition of the word can help frame a potential for discussion with respect to a long standing tradition of form-giving on the land. It is essentially by questioning and bringing symbolic expressions of nature back into focus that landscape will resolve the inherent contradiction of its being, namely that of offering the promise of a wilderness where there is none. In contrast: great spatial disparity and dispersion prevail in today's landscape; this can be attributed to the multitude of actors and factors shaping the land.

The conference is looking for a critical debate about the contemporary intelligence of landscape at a time of relentless conceptual oscillation and uncertainty. Outstanding thinkers and practitioners will share their thoughts and convictions, to help shed light on a multitude of issues, on one of the most ill-defined concepts of our age – call it landscape if you will. Lectures and discussions will gravitate around the following three main topics: Science and Memory, Power and Terrain, Method and Design.

Program

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Young researchers thinking the contemporary landscape

Moderation: Anette Freytag (ETH Zurich) and Dora Imhof (ETH Zurich)

9:00-11:00
Poster presentations by 10 selected young researchers

Jury: Georges Descombes (Atelier Descombes Rampini, Geneva), Sonja Duempelmann (Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge), Anette Freytag (ETH Zurich), Bianca Maria Rinaldi (Università degli Studi di Camerino), Antje Stokman (Universität Stuttgart), Christian Werthmann (Leibniz Universität Hannover)

11:15-11:30
Wilhelm Krull (Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover), Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)
Welcome Address and Official Opening

Science and Memory
Moderation: Albert Kirchengast (ETH Zurich)

11:30-12:00
Vittoria Di Palma (University of Southern California, Los Angeles)
"In the Mood for Landscape"

12:00-12:45
Comments by and discussion with Barry Bergdoll (Columbia University, New York) and Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)

[Lunch Break]

Positions and Oppositions in Landscape Architecture
Moderation: Bianca Maria Rinaldi (Università degli Studi di Camerino)

14:00-14:25
Georges Descombes (Atelier Descombes Rampini, Geneva)
"Superpositions"

14:25-14:50
Anette Freytag (ETH Zurich)
"Dieter Kienast and the Heritage of the Topological and Phenomenological Dimension of Landscape Architecture"

14:50-15:45
Comments by and discussion with Dorothée Imbert (Sam Fox School of Design, St. Louis)

[Coffee break, with exhibition of selected posters and audience vote]

16:30-16:55

Adriaan Geuze (West 8, Rotterdam)
"Engineer meets Poet"

16:55-17:20
Kristina Hill (University of California, Berkeley)
"Nexus: Intelligence, Memory, Strategy"

17:20-18:15
Comments by and discussion with Sonja Duempelmann (Harvard Graduate School of Design)

19:30-20:30
Evening Address
Kathryn Gustafson (Gustafson Porter, London & Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Seattle)
"Landscape Artchitecture, Landscape Artchitecture, Landscape Artchitexture"

Welcome address: Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn (Leibniz Universität Hannover)

Introduction: Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)

Friday, June 21, 2013

Power and Terrain
Moderation: Martin Prominski (Leibniz Universität Hannover)

09:30-10:10
David Leatherbarrow (Penn Design, Philadelphia)
"Not Anywhere, Not Only Here"

10:10-10:50
Saskia Sassen (Columbia University, New York)
"The Global Street: Where the Powerless Get to Make History"

[Coffee break, with exhibition of selected posters and audience vote]

11:20-12:15
Comments by and discussion with Alessandra Ponte (Université de Montréal)

[Lunch break]

Positions and Oppositions in Landscape Architecture
Moderation: Antje Stokman (Universität Stuttgart)

14:00-14:25

Hille von Seggern (Leibniz Universität Hannover)
"The Power of a Landscape Perspective"

14:25-14:50
Kongjian Yu (Turenscape, Beijing)
"Lost and Found: Peasant and His Land"

14:50-15:45
Comments by and discussion with Jörg Rekittke (National University of Singapore)

[Coffee break, with exhibition of selected posters and audience vote]

16:15-16:40
Charles Waldheim (Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge)
"Landscape as Digital Media: Notes toward a Digital Landscape 3.0"

16:40-16:55
Kathryn Gustafson (Gustafson Porter, London & Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Seattle)
"Landscape Artchitecture, Landscape Architecture, Landscape Artchitexture (II)"

17:00-18:00
Comments by and discussion with Michael Jakob (HEPIA, Geneva)

18:00
Wilhelm Krull (Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover), Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)
Announcement of the "Young researchers thinking the contemporary landscape" awardees voted by the audience and the jury.
Certificate award.

19:00
Festive Dinner for speakers and young researchers
Science Slams by the three "Young researchers thinking the contemporary landscape" awardees

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Method and Design
Moderation: Stanislaus Fung (University of New South Wales, Sydney)

09:30-10:10
James Corner (Penn Design, Philadelphia)
"The Thick and the Thin of It"

10:10-10:50
Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)
"Topology"

[Coffee break]

11:15-12:15
Comments by and discussion with Sébastien Marot (École d'architecture de la ville et des territoires, Marne-la-Vallée)

12:15-12:45
Wilhelm Krull (Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover), Christophe Girot (ETH Zurich)
Final Remarks and Farewell

13:00 End of conference & Lunch

Concept and Organisation:
ETH Zurich, Institute of Landscape Architecture: Christophe Girot, Anette Freytag/Dora Imhof (project lead), Albert Kirchengast, Suzanne Krizenecky, Dunja Richter
Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover, Germany: Wilhelm Krull, Anorthe Kremers, Cornelia Soetbeer

Registration: landscape@volkswagenstiftung.de (restricted number of places, no participation fees)

www.girot.arch.ethz.ch
www.facebook.com/LandscapeArchitectureETHZurich

www.volkswagenstiftung.de

Reference:
CONF: Thinking the Contemporary Landscape (Hanover, 20-22 Jun 13). In: ArtHist.net, May 27, 2013 (accessed Nov 23, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/5465>.