

Materiality in the Conceptual Age (AAH, London 10–12 Apr 14)

AAH2014 - Royal College of Art, London, Apr 10–12, 2014

Deadline: Nov 11, 2013

Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra, Birkbeck, University of London

40th Association of Art Historians Annual Conference, Royal College of Art, London

Session: Making Do – Materiality in the Conceptual Age

The emergence of conceptual art in the United States and post-war Europe marked the most radical change of paradigm since Marcel Duchamp's ready-made. Advocating the 'dematerialization' of the art object and a redefinition of art as a (self-) questioning language, conceptualism challenged received ideas about the production and circulation of artworks. Over recent years, a large body of research has examined the development of conceptual practices in so-called 'peripheral' regions, such as Eastern Europe and Latin America, and the ways in which they responded to the double imperative of resisting the cultural hegemony of the West/North and opposing authoritarian regimes. Yet the articulation of conceptualism as a critical category deserves further attention.

This panel seeks to re-examine conceptualism in the light of that which it has tended to negate: materiality. Pertaining to the artwork's physical existence, as well as to its ability to trigger an embodied relation with the audience, a reconsideration of materiality in conceptual art raises questions about the historical conditions of artistic production and the roles of gender and space within this practice. What does materiality tell us about a conceptual piece? How are the material and conceptual intertwined? How do different media involved in conceptual art approach and treat matter? Is there such a thing as a 'return' of materiality in the post-conceptual age? How are these notions deployed institutionally? The panel will assess the importance of exploring the interrelations of conceptualism and materiality, and encourage comparison and dialogue between different regions and timeframes.

Panel convenors:

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If you would like to offer a paper, please email the session convenors directly, providing an abstract of a proposed 30-minute paper. Abstracts must be no more than 250 words, and most include your name and institutional affiliation (if any).

Please do not send proposals to the Conference Administrator or to the Conference Convenors.

Deadline for submissions: 11 November 2013.

For queries about the AAH2014 conference or bookfair contact:

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Reference:

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