

## Dolls and Puppets (Bialystok – Warsaw, 23–26 Jun 14)

Bialystok - Warsaw, Poland, Jun 23–26, 2014

Deadline: Jan 31, 2014

Kamil Kopania, Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw

### Call for Papers

#### Dolls and Puppets as Artistic and Cultural Phenomenon

The presence of dolls and puppets has been a constant feature of life throughout the history of humankind. The use and perception of dolls and puppets reflects people's attitudes towards the world and other people as well as spiritual concerns. In academic discussions this phenomenon is usually treated in relative isolation. Theatre historians have their own vision of the history of dolls and puppets, as do art historians, ethnologists, film connoisseurs and historians of literature. These various views do not, unfortunately, often enter into direct dialogue. The main aim of the conference *Dolls and Puppets as Artistic and Cultural Phenomenon*, organized by the Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw, and the Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Theatre Academy in Warsaw – Department of Puppetry Art in Bialystok, is to gather specialists from various fields to share a wide spectrum of reflections on dolls and puppets. Researchers interested in the following subjects are kindly welcomed:

- The theme or motif of dolls and puppets as themes and motives in painting, graphic art, drawing and sculpture
- The theme or motif of dolls and puppets in literature, music, and theatre
- Dolls and puppets in the visual culture of the 20th and 21st century
- Dolls and puppets as an art medium
- Unusual sculptures resembling dolls and puppets (ancient art)
- Mechanical dolls and puppets
- Esthetics of dolls and puppets
- Dolls and puppets in ritual
- Dolls and puppets as literary, philosophical, political and social metaphor

Submissions from disciplines such as art history, theatre, literature, music, anthropology, sociology, history, film studies are especially

encouraged. Relevant topics from any historical period are acceptable. The conference is focused mainly on the presence of dolls and puppets in European culture, but analyses of the influence of African and Asian traditions on European culture (and vice versa) are by all means highly welcomed. The concluding session of the conference will include a panel discussion of the outstanding problems in the fields in question and the perspectives for future research.

The conference is designed to be a platform for the exchange of opinions, ideas, and historical documentation, as well as the starting point for a publication. Our plan is to publish a collection of articles offering an interdisciplinary academic survey of the topic of dolls and puppets. Such a book, which could be a substantial compendium of knowledge about this important artistic and cultural phenomenon, is unquestionably lacking and much-needed.

The conference will be held during the 7th International Festival of Puppetry Schools, held in Bialystok (for information about previous Festival programs, see: <http://www.atb.edu.pl/festiwal.html>). Participants in the conference are warmly welcomed to take part in the Festival.

The language of the conference is English. Each contributor will be given 20 minutes to present his/her paper. Please send abstracts of no longer than 400 words, together with a short CV (max. 2-sided A4) to Dr. Kamil Kopania at the following e-mail: [kamilkopania@o2.pl](mailto:kamilkopania@o2.pl). Deadline: January 31, 2014.

Conference fee: 70 Euros

Conference organiser:

Dr. Kamil Kopania (Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw;  
Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Theatre Academy in Warsaw, Department of  
Puppetry Art in Bialystok;  
<http://www.ihs.uw.edu.pl/instytut-2/struktura-instytutu/dr-kamil-kopania/>)

Dr. Kamil Kopania  
Institute of Art History  
University of Warsaw  
Krakowskie Przedmiescie 26/28  
00-927 Warsaw  
Poland

Email: [kamilkopania@o2.pl](mailto:kamilkopania@o2.pl)

Visit the website at <http://uw.academia.edu/KamilKopania/Call-for-Papers>

Reference:

CFP: Dolls and Puppets (Bialystok - Warsaw, 23-26 Jun 14). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 25, 2013 (accessed Apr 19,

2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/6001>>.