

## French Landscapes & Cityscapes of the 1930s (EAM Helsinki, 29–31 Aug 14)

Helsinki, Aug 29–31, 2014

Deadline: Jan 30, 2014

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Call for Papers: Utopia and Dystopia in the French Landscapes and Cityscapes of the 1930s

Appel à communications: « l'Utopie et dystopie dans les paysages ruraux et urbains de la peinture française des années 1930 »

Following the theme of theme of this year's EAM conference, this panel seeks contributions on Utopian, or contrarily, dystopian themes in landscape and cityscape painting of 1930s France. A troubled period in French history, the 1930s were marked by a political pessimism regarding the feasibility of the Third Republic, and in the aesthetic realm, a sense of crisis. In painting, this period saw a turn to the imagined or fictionalized landscape or cityscape. In contrast to the observational experiments and simplifications which had marked the work of Cezanne, the landscapes of the 1930s operate in an allegorical language, functioning as the site of a psychological projection in which two parallel tendencies can be detected, each with their relationship to the past clearly stated. The first is Utopic, oriented somewhat desperately towards the idyllic canvases of Puvis de Chavannes and Poussin, while the second is dystopic, presenting a ruined, empty, or apocalyptic terrain onto which the pessimistic narratives about the present or future are projected.

Welcoming papers on all artistic tendencies, this panel seeks to relate these features to political sympathies and the cultural politics of this period, with special attention to the way in which these paintings articulate anxieties or fantasies regarding class relations, industrialization, or national and imperialistic identity.

The fourth international conference of the EAM (European Avant-Garde and Modernism, Art, and Literature Conference) is being held this year in Helsinki, Finland, from August 29-31, 2014.

Please send an abstract of 200 words by January 30th through the online

submission form, here:

<https://ilmo.contio.fi/meetingsmillabstract/abstract.aspx>.

Participants will be informed about the acceptance of the papers by February 30, 2014. Conference information can be found here:

<http://www.eam2014.com/>

Reference:

CFP: French Landscapes & Cityscapes of the 1930s (EAM Helsinki, 29-31 Aug 14). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 23, 2013 (accessed Jun 25, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/6486>>.