

Visual Conversations with France (MAHS St. Louis, 3-5 Apr 14)

Saint Louis, Apr 3-05, 2014

Deadline: Dec 16, 2013

www.mahsonline.org/call_for_papers_2014.asp

Susan Wallaer, University of Missouri-Saint Louis

Call For Papers

International Currents and Global Impressionism: Visual Conversations with France

Session at the Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO

In the spring of 2014, The Saint Louis Art Museum will host a major exhibition "Impressionist France: Visions of Nation from Le Gray to Monet" that will feature Impressionist paintings representing both urban centers and regional landscapes in France. The MAHS conference offers us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the significance of this pivotal movement in French modernism from the 1870s until after World War I and to consider how and why it had such an impact on art worlds beyond France's borders. On the one hand, this session may address how key Impressionist artists such as Monet and Renoir carried the style abroad, working in such locations as Norway, Italy, England and North Africa, and how (or if) they adapted their style to non-French soil and culture. How did French Impressionists such as Monet or Morisot regard their foreign markets, and how did dealers such as Durand-Ruel export and market this French style abroad?

This session also asks how and why the style was appropriated and adapted by non-French artists, either foreign and immigrant artists working in Paris, or those adapting the style to local practice in their homelands, and to what cultural and aesthetic ends. Was Impressionism adapted to celebrate national identities in a fresh way? Or, was it borrowed to attain a certain cosmopolitanism through sharing in leading-edge currents of modern art? How have non-French authors understood and critiqued the movement, and to what social, aesthetic or political ends? What is the significance of the "belated" adoption of Impressionism several decades later in so many non-European countries?

All such questions addressing the impact of Impressionism on the global stage are welcome. Please send proposals by December 16, 2014 to: Elizabeth C. Childs, Department of Art History and Archeology, Washington University in St. Louis, ecchilds@wustl.edu.

Reference:

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