POLITICS AND THE ARTS 1850-1914 (AMSTERDAM, 17-18 APR 14)

Amsterdam, April 17 - 18, 2014

Amsterdam

The Artwork Exposed: Politics and the Arts (1850-1914)

Symposium in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG)
Amsterdam, 17-18 April 2014

With a Keynote Lecture on
“Patriotism, Empathy, and the Politicization of Art”
by Michelle Facos (Indiana University Bloomington)

In art history, the last decades have seen an overwhelming number of publications that provide political interpretations of a variety of artworks. It almost seems as if any visual object can be interpreted in ways inscribing it with political significance. Rather than adding yet more interpretations of individual works to the canon of art history, this symposium aims to take the topic of art and politics into more theoretical realms by asking questions that touch upon the fundamental relationship between artworks, history and politics. Artworks are in the first place visual objects. How can artworks and political history be related to each other, apart from using the first to illuminate the second – and vice versa? How are visual objects able to communicate a political message? How can historians deal with the divide between intention and perception when analyzing artworks? And whose intentions are we talking about: those of the artist, those of the commissioner, or those of the viewer?

The conference sets out to develop new ways of thinking about artworks as objects in networks of intention, interpretation and social relations that include artists, commissioners, critics and the audience. It is the explicit intention of the organizers to step beyond the well-known generalizations of art history, like artistic styles or schools, avant-garde and arrière-garde, modern and traditional. It offers a platform that brings together young and established scholars, both historians and art historians, who are studying the period 1850-1914. In addition, the conference will
include a visit to the Rijksmuseum for an in situ discussion of the relationship between arts and politics in the Dutch context.

PROGRAM:

Thursday, 17 April 2014

Location: Van Gogh Museum, Auditorium

13.00–13.30 Registration

13.30–13.35 Welcome

13.35–13.50 Introduction by Camelia Errouane (University of Groningen)

13.50–14.35 Keynote lecture by Michelle Facos (Indiana University Bloomington)

14.35–14.55 Discussion

14.55–15.15 Break

Session 1: The Influence of Politics on the Reception of Art
15.15–17.00

1. Bart Pushaw (Tallinn University): Artistic Alliances and Revolutionary Rivalries in the Baltic Art World, 1890-1914

2. Joes Segal (Utrecht University): The Politicization of Art in the German Empire, 1900-1914


17.00–19.00 Excursion: tba

Friday, 18 April 2014

Location: Rijksmuseum, Auditorium
Day chair: Wessel Krul (University of Groningen)

9.00–9.30 Coffee/tea

Session 2: Artists and their Political Strategies
9.30–11.10

1. Tom Verschaffel (Leuven University), Between Politics, the Public and two Capitals: The Strategies and the Network of the Stevens Family
2. Laura Prins (Van Gogh Museum), Politics of Printmaking in the Early Third Republic, 1870-1914

3. Marlies van der Riet (University of Amsterdam), Artists into Politics: The National Monument and The Hague’s Theatre Debate, 1863-1913

11.10 – 11.40 Break

Session 3: Political Motivations and the (Dis)appearance of Artworks 11.40–13.20

1. Geneviève Lacambre (independent scholar), Gustave Moreau and the Republic

2. Alison McQueen (McMaster University), Discourses of French Colonial Dominance through Public Sculpture: The Monument to Maréchal Bugeaud in Algiers, 1852-1858

3. Sandra Leandro (New University of Lisbon, University of Évora), Politics in a Phantom Museum: The Industrial and Commercial Museum of Oporto

13.20–14.50 Lunch break and visit Rijksmuseum

Session 4: The Intentions of Commissioners 14.50–16.30

1. Jenny Reynaerts (Rijksmuseum), Heritage, Museumfication and the Political Past: The Decorations in the Rijksmuseum Front Hall and Gallery of Honour

2. Giovanna Capitelli (University of Calabria), Against Secularization – Towards Anti-Modernity: Pius IX and the Esposizione romana relative all’arte cristiana e al culto cattolico of 1870

3. Karen Vannieuwenhuyze (University of Antwerp), The Antwerp Municipality and the (Ab)use of Sculptures, Statues and Memorials in the Urban Political Space

16.30–17.00 Final reflections by Wessel Krul (University of Groningen)

17.00–18.00 Drinks

This symposium is organized by Camelia Errouane (University of Groningen) and Laura Prins (Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam) in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG).

To register for this event, please mail to info@knhg.nl and transfer
the registration fee to
IBAN: NL25 INGB 0006 9343 91
BIC: INGBNL2A

Registration fee (includes refreshments and lunch): € 40
Reduced prices for students (€ 20), KNHG members (€ 30) and KHNG student members (€ 15).

REFERENCE: