

Politics and the Arts (1850-1914) (Amsterdam, 17-18 Apr 14)

Amsterdam, Apr 17-18, 2014

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

Seminar in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Historical Society (Koninklijk Nederlands Historisch Genootschap)

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
(Museumplein, entrance: Paulus Potterstraat 7, Amsterdam)

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)

Patriotism, Empathy, and the Politicization of Art

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

Bart Pushaw (Tallinn University)

Artistic Alliances and Revolutionary Rivalries in the Baltic Art World,
1890-1914

Joes Segal (Utrecht University)

The Politicization of Art in the German Empire, 1900-1914

Marie Cambefort (Royal Holloway)

'Das Unbehagen in der Kultur': The Reception of Art at the Venice
Biennale, 1909-1914

17.00–19.00 Excursion: tba

Friday, 18 April 2014

Location: Rijksmuseum, Auditorium
(Museumstraat 1, Amsterdam)

Day chair: Wessel Krul (University of Groningen)

9.00–9.30 Coffee/tea

Session 2: Artists and their Political Strategies

9.30–11.10

Tom Verschaffel (Leuven University)

Between Politics, the Public and two Capitals: The Strategies and the Network of the Stevens Family

Laura Prins (Van Gogh Museum)

Politics of Printmaking in the Early Third Republic, 1870-1914

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

Geneviève Lacambre (independent scholar)

Gustave Moreau and the Republic

Alison McQueen (McMaster University)

Discourses of French Colonial Dominance through Public Sculpture: The Monument to Maréchal Bugeaud in Algiers, 1852-1858

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

Jenny Reynaerts (Rijksmuseum)

Heritage, Museumfication and the Political Past: The Decorations in the Rijksmuseum Front Hall and Gallery of Honour

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

Karen Vannieuwenhuyze (University of Antwerp)

The Antwerp Municipality and the (Ab)use of Sculptures, Statues and Memorials in the Urban Political Space

ArtHist.net

16.30–17.00

Final reflections by Wessel Krul (University of Groningen)

17.00–18.00 Drinks

Organized by:

Camelia Errouane (University of Groningen)

Laura Prins (Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam)

To register for this event, please mail to info@knhg.nl

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

Reference:

CONF: Politics and the Arts (1850-1914) (Amsterdam, 17-18 Apr 14). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 16, 2014

(accessed Apr 7, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/7153>>.