

The Pleasure of Doubt in Art (Berlin, 19–21 Jun 14)

Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI), Berlin, Jun 19–21, 2014

Isabelle Toppe

The Pleasure of Doubt in Art, Aesthetics, and Everyday Life

The International Research Training Group "InterArt", in cooperation with the Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI), will host an international conference on "The Pleasure of Doubt in Art, Aesthetics, and Everyday Life" from June 19 to June 21.

Doubt pervades our daily life, both emotionally and cognitively. And yet, modern philosophy and the humanities tend to trivialize it. They conceive doubt in purely negative terms, as a mere nuisance in the pursuit of knowledge. But the modern arts, and also a small number of philosophers, paint a much more nuanced picture: They meet doubt with curiosity and attention; they embrace it as a transformative power; they provoke it at will and even cultivate it in ordinary life. The international conference "The Pleasure of Doubt in Arts, Aesthetics and Everyday Life" explores this alternative route to doubt, skepticism and scruples. It starts from the assumption that "living doubt" is not just a mental state of disbelief, but a conflictual experiential process. Doubt implicates the body as well as the senses; it stimulates just as much as it irritates; it discloses as well as it obscures.

Renowned representatives from anthropology to philosophy are invited to discuss how doubt shapes our lives, and how the experience of doubt is, or even ought, to be dealt with.

Program:

THURSDAY

19.00

Dieter Mersch

Doubt, Skepticism, and Desperation

The Arrows of Paradox

21.00

Reception

FRIDAY

10.00–11.00

Erika Fischer-Lichte

The Theatricality of Doubting

11.15–12.15

Heidi Salaverría

Critique of Aesthetic Doubts

12.30–13.30

Christiane Voss

Suspension von Zweifel als Form ästhetischer Gewissheit

13.30–15.00

Lunch Break

15.00–16.00

Andrew Norris

What is a Doubtful Situation?

16.15–17.15

Mathijs Pelkmans

Catching Doubt in Mid-Air?

Reflections on the (Im)possibilities
of the Empirical Study of Doubt

SATURDAY

10.00–11.00

Richard Shiff

As it Feels

11.15–12.15

Miriam Strube

Moments of Sudden Rightness

On the Fragility of Truth in Wallace Stevens' Poetry

13.15–14.15

Uwe Wirth

Think Today – Finish Tomorrow

Strategic Dilettantism and the Question
of Knowledge in the Arts

14.30–15.30

Michelle Zerba

Penelope's Web, Pyrrho's Pig, and Skepticism's Comic Turn

Venue: Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI),

Christinenstr. 18/19, 10119 Berlin, +49 30 473 7291 10

<https://www.ici-berlin.org/>

Admission is free.

For detailed information, please visit our conference website:

<http://www.pleasure-of-doubt.com/>

Reference:

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