Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism (Prague, 27-28 Nov 14)

Prague, Institute of Art History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Husova 4, 110 00 Praha 1, Nov 27–28, 2014

Blanka Švédová

Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism in the Avant-Garde and Modernism: The Impact of WWI

This workshop follows up on discussions that were initiated at an international symposium in Stockholm: The European Artistic Avant–Garde c. 1910-1930: Formations, Networks and Transnational Strategies (11–13 September 2013). It focuses on one particular aspect of the avant-garde and modernism, namely, the clash therein of the national, the transnational and the cosmopolitan. In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, but to some extent in Scandinavia too, the struggle for national independence, which in most cases began in the 19th century and culminated during and after World War I, had important cultural and artistic consequences. The symposium will track the changes in and compare the nationalist rhetorics in modern and avant-garde art just before the outbreak of WWI, as well as during and after the war. After 1917 the map of Europe changed dramatically. A number of new, independent states were established, and these developments found expression in every genre of the visual arts and transformed the image of the continent. The papers presented in this workshop focus primarily, but not exclusively, on modernism and the avant-garde in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltics and Scandinavia. There are also papers that describe the dissemination and translation of avant-garde language in regions and countries at the fringes of Europe. Some questions we would like to discuss are: How was the understanding of nationalism and the post-WWI avant-garde affected by historiography, especially that of the 1950s and later? To what extent were nationalism and cosmopolitanism part of avant-garde and modern-art discourse before WWI and how did the understanding of them change during the war? What relationship did the avant-garde have to traditional and to official art in terms of their views on nationalism? What different kinds of nationalisms resulted from the national revival movements of Czechs, Croats, Slovenes and Poles in the late 19th century within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or of Poles and Lithuanians in Czarist Russia? And, on the other side, in what sense

was the postwar avant-garde in the newly founded countries (Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Baltic States etc.) an expression of cosmopolitanism? The workshop will serve as a platform for rethinking the methodological tools we use to understand and explain the complexity and the multiplicity of avant-garde forms in these regions of Europe, a subject that is still under-researched.

PROGRAMME

Thursday 27 November 2014

9.00–9.30 Reception, coffee

9.30–9.45
Introduction: Lidia Głuchowska / Vojtěch Lahoda

Section 1
Moderator: Steven Mansbach

9.45–10.15
Nina Gourianova, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA
War as Medium: The Great War in the Russian Avant-Garde

10.15–10.45
Benedikt Hjartarson, University of Iceland, Rijekjavík, Iceland
Abstract Constructivism: Universal Language – National Idioms

10.45–11.00 Coffee break

Section 2
Moderator: Steven Mansbach

11.00–11.30
Erwin Kessler, Institute of Philosophy, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
The Use, Abuse and Misuse of Cubism in the Romanian Avant-Garde

11.30–12.00
Bela Tsipuria, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
Georgian Modernists Rethinking Nationalism: The Impact of WWI and the Russian Revolutions

12.00–12.30
Irina Genova, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria
Modernism and the National Idea – Reflections of WWI: The Case of

Bulgaria in the Context of South-Eastern Europe

12.30–14.00 Lunch break

Section 3
Moderator: Lidia Głuchowska

14.00–14.30
Harri Veivo, University of New Sorbonne, Paris, France / University of Helsinki, Finland
Centred and Decentred Cosmopolitanisms in Finland in the 1920s and Early 1930s

14.30–15.00
Heie Treier, Tallinn University, Estonia
Cubism and the Start of Avant-Garde in Estonia

15.00–15.30
Ginta Gerharde-Upeniece, Latvian National Museum of Art, Riga, Latvia
Art and the New Latvian State (1918–1920): Modernism as a Cosmopolitan Idea and a Substantive National Factor

15.30–15.45 Coffee break

Section 4
Moderator: Charlotte Bydler

15.45–16.15
Annika Gunnarsson, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
'Cosmonational' – Neither National Nor Cosmopolitan – But a Tinge of Avant-Garde Modernism

16.15–16.45
Torben Jelsbak, Roskilde University, Denmark
Nationalist and Internationalist Discourses Surrounding the Modernist Breakthrough in Danish Art and Culture during WWI

Friday 28 November 2014

9.00–9.15 Coffee

Section 5
Moderator: Benedikt Hjartarson

9.15–9.45

Éva Forgács, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, USA / IWM, Vienna
The Concept of 'National Art' and World War I in Hungary: Lajos Fülep and the Dynamics of 'National' and 'International'

9.45–10.15
Lidia Głuchowska, Poland
The Great World and the 'New Art' in Poland: Between the Patriotic Ethos, the Nationalisation of Modernism and International Attempts in Aesthetics

10.15–10.45
Michal Wenderski, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland
'Uncanonical' Impulses to the 'Canon': Polish and Belgian Contribution to International Constructivism

10.45–11.00 Coffee break

Section 6
Moderator: Vojtěch Lahoda

11.00–11.30
Joana Cunha Leal, Art History Institute, New University of Lisbon, Portugal
'A bridge too far?': The War Effect in the Portuguese and Spanish Avant-Gardes

11.30–12.00
Emilio Quintana, Instituto Cervantes, Stockholm, Sweden
Languages of the Avant-Garde between Poland and Spain: Tadeusz Peiper and Spanish Modernism after WWI

12.00–14.00 Lunch break

Section 7
Moderator: Éva Forgács

14.00–14.30
Ljiljana Kolešnik, Institute of Art History, Zagreb, Croatia
Migrating Signifiers – Socialist Croatian Post-WWII Art History and Its Relation to the Inter-War Avant-Garde

14.30–15.00
Lenka Bydžovská, Institute of Art History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague
The Trojan Horse in the Trade Fair Palace: The Slav Epic versus the

Czech Avant-Garde

15.00–15.30
Vendula Hnídková, Institute of Art History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague
Respect and Triumph: The Intentions and Meanings of Czech Architecture before and after WWI

15.30–15.45 Coffee break

Section 8
Moderator: Tomáš Winter

15.45–16.15
Naomi Hume, Seattle University, USA
Cut-and-Paste in Exile and War: Otto Gutfreund's Parisian Collages

16.15–16.45
Vojtěch Lahoda, Czech Republic
Transnational or National Cubism? Vincenc Kramář on Cubism

16.45–17.15
Closing Remarks: Steven Mansbach

Organizers:
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There is no conference registration fee.

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