Accelerationism, Speculative Realism and Aesthetics (New York, 27 Mar 15)

The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY, Mar 27, 2015
Deadline: Jan 15, 2015

Matilde Guidelli Guidi

Conference: Accelerationism, Speculative Realism and Aesthetics
The Graduate Center, CUNY
365 5th Avenue, New York NY 10016

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2015

In a global context marked by widespread financial speculation, data circulation, ecological catastrophe and political paralysis, speculative realism and accelerationism have emerged as significant challenges to modes of thought and action grounded in the experience of human subjects. By focusing on ontology rather than epistemology, speculative realists consider modes of existence and agency of things beyond of anthropocentric frameworks. Accelerationism refuses nostalgic modes of Leftist resistance to imagine the progressive potential hidden within capitalist technologies that appear to shatter traditional forms of identity.

We invite artists, curators, scholars and graduate students to examine the implications of accelerationism and speculative realism for artistic and curatorial practice, as well as the opportunities and limitations of non-anthropocentric aesthetico-critical strategies.

Papers may address both historical and contemporary subjects in the visual arts, architecture and performance, and consider such questions as:

- Does accelerationism or speculative realism have an aesthetics?
- How might these philosophies allow for a renegotiation of boundaries between art, technology, ecology, and science?
- Can they offer new perspectives on established critical categories – such as autonomy, alienation, reification, realism, and fetishization – and related artistic strategies – i.e., estrangement, mimesis, and détournement?
- How might accelerationism allow for a reconsideration of future- and technologically-oriented artistic practices, from historic avant-garde fusions of man and machine to 1990s cyberpunk, or alternatively account for the fixation on temporal passage and obsolescence in much recent art?
- Does the materiality of art allow it to speculate on modes of being in the world beyond traditional limits of human subjectivity? Can art- and exhibition-making engage with the natural sciences to take up the problems of the Anthropocene?

Organized by students and faculty from the Department of Art History at The Graduate Center,

CUNY, this daylong conference will feature international speakers including Anselm Franke and Miguel Abreu.

Conference funding provided by the John Rewald Endowment of the Ph.D. Program in Art History, and The James Gallery at The Center for the Humanities at The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Please send CV and abstracts (300—500 words) for 15-20 minute talks to: speculateaccelerate@gmail.com (with “Call for Papers” in the subject) no later than January 15, 2015. We will notify selected speakers by January 30, 2015.
Contact details (address, e-mail, and telephone number) and academic affiliation should be provided.

Reference:

CFP: Accelerationism, Speculative Realism and Aesthetics (New York, 27 Mar 15). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 30, 2014 (accessed Oct 30, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/8986>.