

Visualizing Otherness in Modern Italy (Florence, 26–27 Feb 15)

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Palazzo Grifoni Budini
Gattai, Via dei Servi 51, I–50122 Florence, Feb 26–27, 2015

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Visualizing Otherness in Modern Italy (XIX-XX Century)

Workshop

Organized by Melania Savino and Eva-Maria Troelenberg
Max-Planck-Research Group "Objects in the Contact Zone – The
cross-cultural Lives of Things"

Throughout the modern history of Italy, objects and cultural and artistic practices from non-European cultures such as Africa, the Arab world, South and Southeast Asia, China and South America have contributed to the construction of a modern Italian visual identity. Cross-cultural and cross-national exchanges between Italy and non-Western countries led to the introduction of "other" visual practices and codes into the Italian framework, where they contributed to redefinitions of visual narratives or the hybridization of iconographic languages. Against the background of historical circumstances such as the rise of nationalist movements and colonial sentiments, these encounters have not only raised questions about the possibilities of understanding between European and non-European cultures but also participated in the creation of a new visual language.

Yet these phenomena are understudied and deserve to be examined critically in the light of complex networks of multiple cross-national and international interactions. Most of the existing studies in this field explore these themes in the visual cultures of other European countries and the interplay of Italian traditions with other cultures has never been fully assessed.

By shedding light on the transformation of the artistic, museological and cultural practices in Italy from the beginning of the nineteenth century up to the end of the Second World War, the proposed workshop aims to explore and demonstrate how "other" works of art and traditions have played an active role in shaping the modern Italian visual identity. This workshop therefore is primarily concerned with the

perceptions of such objects or cultural and aesthetic practices within the narratives of modern Italy.

PROGRAM

Thursday, 26 February 2015

14.00

Melania Savino, Eva-Maria Troelenberg
Welcome and Introduction

14.15

Olga Bush, New York
Bringing the World Home: Collection and Display at the Castello D'Albertis (Genoa, 1890's-1930's)

15.00

Stefano Anastasio, Florence
The Ancient Near East in the Archaeological Museum of Florence

15.45 Break

16.15

Laurie Kalb, Rome
Exhibiting Ethnography and Antiquities in the Fascist-Era World's Fair Complex of EUR

17.00

Melania Savino, Florence
Traveling Objects: Mesopotamia Exhibited in Italy

Friday, 27 February 2015

10.00

Carmen Belmonte, Florence
Representing the Enemy, Depicting Defeats: Colonial Visual Culture in Nineteenth-century Italy

10.45

Mariana Aguirre, Mexico City
Ardengo Soffici's Manichini Africani: Arcaismo, Classicism and French Modernism

11.30 Break

12.00

ArtHist.net

Viviana Tagliaferri, Athens

The Turkish Parade of Potenza: Historical and Imagined Figures in the
Public Space of the City

12.45 Final Discussion

Contact

Melania Savino

melania.savino@khi.fi.it

+39.055.24911-87

Reference:

CONF: Visualizing Otherness in Modern Italy (Florence, 26-27 Feb 15). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 14, 2015
(accessed Apr 5, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/9487>>.