

CONFERENCE ON MEMORY, ARCHIVE AND FUTURITY IN VISUAL CULTURE

Call for Papers

Alternative Memories / Possible Futures of Visual Arts
New Europe College – Institute for Advanced Studies, Bucharest, Romania
November 1st 2018

Keynote speaker:

Ryszard W. Kluszczyński

Professor of cultural and media studies at Lodz University, Poland, where he is a Head of the Department of Electronic Media and Chair of School of Media and Audiovisual Culture. Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lodz. He writes about new media arts, cyberculture, theory of media and communication, information and network society, experimental cinema and video art. He critically investigates the issues of contemporary art theory, avant-garde, and recent art practices.

<http://media.uni.lodz.pl/en/people/faculty/prof-dr-hab-ryszard-w-kluszczyński/bio>

The conference

The last 100 years marked the most radical changes in the history of art making. The recent cultural globalization and the rapid pace of digital technology development have increasingly transformed the way we produce and experience art, and how we participate in our sociocultural environment.

Memory is an essential instrument in assessing the effects of these historical changes. Memory is seen here in various senses: individual memory understood as a temporal dimension of our psychic organization; collective memory centered around important historical milestones and defined as an interaction between official (historical) memory and recollections (common memory), the result of what has historically been experienced in common; cultural memory defined by archaeologist Jan Assman as “the way the society views its past via newspaper articles, memorials, monuments, films, and buildings.”

The phrase “Alternative memories” in the title cuts across these various senses of the concept of memory, while instrumentalizing it in order to operate a projective interpretation of the past, and at the same time articulating a retrospective view of the future. The scope of this cross-reading of the idea of memory covers the last 100 years and the same number of years ahead of us.

Can we anticipate the radical transformations in art and society that will mirror the last century's events, 100 years from now? Or should we rather expect an orientation towards recycling models and a return to familiar grounds? What role played the year 1918 in the crystallization of avant-garde movements? What was the impact of post-1918 modernization of artistic institutions? What role does individual/collective/cultural memory have in building a prospective cultural and artistic discourse? What role did technological development play in 1918 and what is at stake now regarding digitization in the realm of art? What are the European values, then and now and in the future, and how are they reflected in the artistic discourse? If cultural diversity was a reality in most of Europe in 1918, what role does interculturalism play today in society and culture? From the perspective of art, how far is 2118?

The conference will bring together scholars, artists, and specialists working and researching in the fields of Art history, Visual Arts, Visual Studies, Aesthetics, Performing Arts, Cultural studies, Music, Media and Film Studies, and other related disciplines.

Abstract submission deadline: September 23, 2018.

Abstracts of maximum 2000 characters, accompanied by keywords, will be sent to:

horea.avram@ubbcluj.ro

mometita@nec.ro

Organizers:

New Europe College (NEC) is an independent Romanian institute for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences founded in 1994 by Professor Andrei Pleșu (philosopher, art historian, writer, Romanian Minister of Culture, 1990–1991, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1997-1999) within the framework of the New Europe Foundation, established in 1994 as a private foundation subject to Romanian law.

Focused primarily on individual research at an advanced level, NEC offers to young scholars and academics in the fields of humanities and social sciences appropriate working conditions, and provides an institutional framework with strong international links, acting as a stimulating environment for interdisciplinary dialogue and critical debates. The academic programs NEC coordinates, and the events it organizes aim at strengthening research in the humanities and social sciences and at promoting contacts between Romanian scholars and their peers worldwide.

The Cultural Center for Image and Sound (CCIS) - NGO was founded in March 2017 reflecting the cultural interests of the founding members: contemporary philosophy, visual arts, electro-acoustic music. The mission of CCIS is to pursue the development of a cultural platform focused on the practical and theoretical exploration of contemporary visual and sound arts.

This conference is part of the „100 to 100. Memory and foresight +/- a century (100 la 100. Memorie și prospecție +/- un secol)” project co-funded by AFCN (The Administration of the National Cultural Fund), Romania, 2018.

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