

AICA CONGRESS 2006
CRITICAL EVALUATION RELOADED

The symposium will examine changes and new directions in art criticism that have emerged with the shift in the prevailing artistic climate. With the globalisation of the last few years, we have observed the increasing importance attributed to curating, as an exercise in art criticism, as well as the rapid growth in the role of the internet, as a new medium, not only for communication, but for critical comment.

These changes derive logically from several related developments, starting with revisions in training and teaching methods practised in art schools and universities today, and the greater priority assigned to the new field of curatorial studies.

The current situation strongly reinforces a tendency to regard the exhibition as a performative medium, closely linked to a powerful economic system. This is also connected with the resurgence of interest in alternative, and often ephemeral, responses to the changing context of artistic creation. If art criticism is adequately to perform its task, it must respond to the realities of the new situation and attempt a better definition of its specific goals and systems of evaluation.

The symposium will be divided into two parts each day, from 16-19 October, inclusive:

- 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Two round tables at the Instituto Cervantés, each involving a moderator and from 4 to 5 speakers
- 7.00 p.m. Lecture by a keynote speaker at a different public institution (Palais de Tokyo, Irish Cultural Centre, MACVAL, INHA/ Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art)

LECTURES

The lectures will develop the following themes :

- The Place of evaluation in Art Criticism
- The Exhibition : Testbench for Critical Evaluation?
- Teaching and Training: where, and why, is critical evaluation needed?

(Venues, names and titles in italics are subject to confirmation)

Sunday 15 October – 7 p.m.

- Brian O'Doherty (USA) : *"From the White Cube to the Global Stage"* – Irish Cultural Centre

Tuesday 17 October – 7 p.m.

- Viktor Misiano (Russia) : *"Languages of Exhibition, Networks of Knowledge"* – Palais de Tokyo

Wednesday 18 October – 7 p.m.

- Jean-Pierre Cometti (France) : *"The Experience of Critical Judgement"* – INHA

Thursday 19 October – 7 p.m.

- Fernando Alvim (Angola) : *"The Place of Art plus the Place of Criticism"* – MAC / VAL

SESSIONS

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

I. New Outlets for art Criticism

Critical evaluation is on the increase in new media outlets : internet, virtual communication, free magazines ... What kinds of writing and forms of expression prevail in these instances ?

Moderator : Stephen Wright (Canada)

Round Table 1 : Alternative outlets : new publics, new practices, new goals ...

Keynote speaker : Boris Chukhovich (Uzbekistan), Brandon Taylor (UK)

Speakers : Azeez Ademola (Nigeria), Jacqueline Lacasa (Uruguay), Teresa Wagner (UNESCO)

Round Table 2 : Validation and Empowerment : what recognition do we grant to these new discourses? which methods should we employ?

Keynote speakers : Iara Boubnova (Bulgaria), Bassam El Baroni (Egypt)

Speakers : Camilla Jalving (Denmark), Ali Akay (Turkey)

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

II. Dematerialised Critical Practices

Increasingly, the critic is invited to participate in juries as an expert, or consultant, in a variety of social or professional contexts. Is it still possible to apply the term "critical evaluation" in such cases?

Moderator : Jonathan Dronsfield (UK)

Round Table 1 : Art Criticism and the Art Market; Art Criticism and Commissioning ...

Keynote speaker : nn

Speakers : Lisbeth Rebollo (Brazil), Lars Saari (Finland), Rune Gade (Denmark)

Round Table 2 : Critical Recognition : Arguments and Convictions

Keynote speakers : Zoran Eric (Serbia), Eva Khachatryan (Armenia)

Speakers : Alina Serban (Rumania), Ramon Tio Bellido (France)

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

III. The Curator and the Critic: Parallel Training

What is the place of critical evaluation in curatorial training courses ? Should art criticism not play a central role in exhibition planning?

Moderator : Eugene Tan (Singapore)

Round Table 1 : The Critical Functions of an Exhibition : what does the curator evaluate ?

Keynote speaker : nn

Speakers : Dominique Abensour (France) & Nazareth Karoyan (Armenia), Angelica Bäumer (Austria)

Round Table 2 : The Place of Art Criticism in Curatorial Training.

Keynote speaker : Patrick Flores (Philippines)

Speakers : Anthony Bond (Australia), Klaus Honnef (Germany), Andrew Lamprecht (South Africa)

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

IV. New Orientations in Visual Arts and Cultural Studies

Today anyone training to become an artist is increasingly likely to feel the need to go to art school and, if possible, work for a degree at the postgraduate level. Art schools have become increasingly efficient in designing courses which cater to this need. Many art critics teach at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. But what importance do the schools themselves attach to the evaluation of work and working practices?

Moderator : Valérie Mavridorakis (France)

Round Table 1 : The Role of the Critic in helping to train the Professional Artist.

Keynote speaker : Virginia MacKenny (South Africa),

Speakers : Mike Omoighe (Nigeria), Pavel Sedlak (Czech rep.), Joanna Winnicka-Gburek (Poland)

Round Table 2 : Teaching Methods and Sociopolitical or Aesthetic Values: prescription? transmission ? elicitation ?

Keynote speaker : Aneta Szylak (Poland)

Speakers : Gloria Hernandez (Mexico), Liam Kelly (Ireland), June Yap (Singapore)

VISITS

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

Visit to the Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres and its museum

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Visit to the Musée du Quai Branly (dedicated to arts and civilisations from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas)

Visit to the Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris / ARC

Visit to the Palais de Tokyo / National Center for Contemporary Art

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

Visit to the Biennale « Art Grandeur Nature » : venues of Aubervilliers (Les Laboratoires and La Cité Lénine) and Blanc-Mesnil (La Cité Pierre Sémard and Le Forum)

Or

Visit to the Plateau/ Frac Ile-de-France and the new galleries of the *Paris-Est* district

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

Visit to the connected TRAM net art centers : Galerie of Noisy-le-Sec, Les Instants Chavirés and La Maison Populaire of Montreuil, Crédac of Ivry-sur-Seine, MAC/VAL – museum of contemporary art of Vitry-sur-Seine

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

Visit to the MEP/ Maison européenne de la photographie

Visit to Ensba/ Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts and closing party



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