

Dear friends some conference announcements that may be of your interest.

Julio

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Reading Architecture: Literary Imagination and Architectural Experience

Location: Greece

Symposium Date: 2015-06-16

Call for papers:

Professor Aulis Blomstedt used to advice his students at the Helsinki University of Technology that the capacity to imagine situations of life is a more important talent for an architect than the gift of fantasizing space. From the small scale of the domestic environment to the level of the city, literature has systematically provided us with detailed and compelling explorations of situations of life. As sociologist Robert Park famously declared we are mainly indebted to writers of fiction for our more intimate knowledge of contemporary urban life. A primary means of representation of human reality, dealing since the 19th century even with questions that had traditionally been the province of philosophy, literature focuses on the ever-changing and difficult to grasp conditions of human life, the very life that buildings, places and cities, surround, enclose, and enable.

Departing from this conviction, the symposium wishes to explore how the literary production of modernity can enlighten architects and urban planners in understanding and valorizing qualitative characteristics of the contemporary life they are called to design for. These situations of life could include a focused look into people's everyday private and public lives, small or big scale events in human-built environments, socio-cultural and political phenomena in urban contexts. We understand these situations as place-bound (place specific) architectural experiences that allow for a qualitative, emotional and embodied apprehension of the world.

The symposium invites papers on the above categories of architectural experiences as captured in literature, to open up a discussion on how they can inform and inspire architects and architecture nowadays. It also invites papers with a pedagogical focus, exploring how the emotional, intersubjective and place-bounded worlds that literature reveals to us, can enrich architectural design and education.

The symposium will take place at Athens' Benaki Museum from June 16th to 18th, 2015.

Submission deadline: January 15, 2015

For more information, please visit www.readingarchitecture.org

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History of Architectural Historiography

Location: Norway

Conference Date: 2015-06-12

The colloquium is dedicated to the history of research and scholarship in architectural history and its perspectives: the history of scholarly approaches, their implications and developments through history—but also historical perspectives on where it is going, including, for instance, the changes in scholarship effected

by digital technologies or the positioning of the discipline in the rapidly changing academic world. Compared to the histories of painting or sculpture, architectural history is more institutionalized, with a wide range of established societies and specialist publications—but what is the history of that institutionalisation and how did its goals change through history? Many historians of painting or sculpture work in museums, while architectural museums are rare; many architectural historians are directly involved in the preservation of architectural heritage, while few historians of painting or sculpture work in the conservation of their objects of study. What is then the history of architectural historians' involvement with architectural heritage and how did their approaches change through history? And more specifically, pertaining to architectural history itself, how did the interest in our discipline develop and how did it develop discipline-specific methodological tools and devices?

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Visit the website at <http://arthistoriography.wordpress.com/colloquia/>

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CFP: Visual and Critical Studies Conference--Dissonance

Location: Illinois, United States

Call for Papers Date: 2014-12-01

Visual and Critical Studies Conference: *Dissonance*

The Department of Visual and Critical Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago invites emerging scholars, artists, and graduate students to submit proposals for the spring 2015 VCS Graduate Conference: *Dissonance* to be held March 13-14.

Dissonance can refer to both the disunity of things and an unlikely harmony between them. Its roots are in the language of music and poetry, existing in opposition to aesthetic standards of consonance and assonance. It is a sound we are forced to hear, one that disrupts static or congruously moving spaces. It is the tension between opposing thoughts within a single mind.

Dissonance disintegrates the notion of the absolute; it makes us read outside containable forms of order and reason.

How can dissonance serve as a framework to intersect the aims of different disciplines? We invite students, scholars and artists from all backgrounds—Visual Studies, Cultural Studies, Art History, English, Comparative Literature, Sociology, Anthropology, Archeology, Fine Arts, Media/Film Studies, History, and those outside the academy altogether—to surface in our discussion.

Let us know the ways in which the idea of dissonance relates to your research and/or creative practice.

Approximations may include the following topics:

[dissonance thought as, or in relation to:]

Liminal space between representation and lived reality.

Religion, race, and geographical borders; understanding othering in the context of political unrest.

Copies and originals: differentiating "authenticity."

Street art and public performance: temporal transformations of the city.

Dialogic rhetoric: learning through discourse.

Semantic structure that exceeds the linearity of history, cinematic image, etc.

The hieroglyphic: images and legibility.

Diacritical marks.

Losses and gains of translations.

Blogging, commenting, and the message board: the power (or powerlessness) of dissonant voices.

Aesthetics and meaning of noise.

The wheres and whys of interventionist installations.

Incongruous objects and the chronotope of the exhibition space.

Architectures, borders, and facades; planning separation in the urban (or sub-urban) space.

The conference will take place March 13-14, 2015. **We are pleased** to announce that Boris Groys will be joining us as keynote speaker.

Please submit your proposals to saicvcsconference@gmail.com. All entries must be received by December 1, 2014. **We will inform** you of our decisions by mid-December.

If you have any questions about the conference not related to your proposals, please contact Zoya Brumberg (zbrumb@saic.edu) or David Ayala-Alfonso (davidayala@saic.edu).

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"leap and the net will appear"