Institute Colloquium Spring Semester 2022

Wednesday, 18.15–19.45 University of Zurich Rämistrasse 59 Room RAA-G-15 and Online

Art History and Decolonization



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The Institute Colloquium focuses on decolonization, a topic that has been discussed by multiple voices in recent years. In 2020, the journals Art History and October published detailed questionnaires on the topic, which were answered by artists, (art) historians, and curators. They all take a perspective of decolonization, from which colonialism and imperialism are not to be understood as historical events, but as phenomena that deeply permeate our global world to this day - thus also art history and its institutions, most of all its museums - even if the effects are felt differently in Zurich, London, Singapore or Jakarta.

In Zurich, we find ourselves «at the margins» of European colonialism and its study. How can we productively discuss the decolonization of the discipline of art history from our location in Switzerland, a country that never had its own colonies? How can we rethink or even «unlearn» art historical research materials, canons, and curricula, as Ariella Azoulay requests, in order to recognize colonial modes of representation, methods, and structures of our field of study? In this context, what role does the growing research on Switzerland's colonial entanglements play, the results of which are increasingly reaching a broader public sphere? In lectures and discussions, histories of colonialism will be brought into dialogue with theories, strategies, and practices of decolonization.

- 02.03. «Wo wir stehen Eine Einführung» Bettina Gockel and Sophie Junge (University of Zurich)
- 16.03. «'Doing the work'– Art History and the longing to utilize art in order to envision a different present» Nana Adusei-Poku (Bard College, NY) \rightarrow Zoom
- 30.03. «Engaging with toxic legacies, reconfigurating transmission» Lotte Arndt (Paris) and Sammy Baloji (Lubumbashi/Brussels) \rightarrow Zoom
- 06.04. «Antirassismus in der Kunstgeschichte? Ein Gespräch» CARAH – Collective for Anti-Racist Art History (University of Zurich)
- 13.04. 10.15 a.m. «Decolonising the contemporary art museum in Southeast Asia: Learning from Tikar-A-Gagah»

Michelle Antoinette (Monash University,



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Institute of Art History. University of Zurich Concept and Organisation: Bettina Gockel and Sophie Junge

The lecture series is free and open to the public. The lectures will be held in English and German and take place at the University of Zurich (room RAA-G-15) and online.

Please register here for the online lectures: sophieantonia.junge@uzh.ch

Photo: Sally Schonfeldt, Tuning into Future Symphonies of Return I, Exhibition View, Haus Konstruktiv, 2019. Image: Dominik Zietlow

Melbourne)

 \rightarrow Zoom

- 27.04. «Tuning into Future Symphonies of Return» Sally Schonfeldt (Zurich)
- 11.05. «Kritische Weißseinsforschung als Methode zur Dekolonialisierung» Anna Greve (University of Bremen/Focke Museum Bremen)
- 01.06. «An den Rändern? Dekolonisierung in der Schweiz» Round table discussion with Annette Bhagwati (Museum Rietberg Zurich) and Noémie Etienne (University of Berne) \rightarrow Zoom