Recent debates in art history have addressed the need to rethink the discipline’s Euro-centric premises. Furthermore, increasing transcultural entanglements in contemporary art have engendered methodological questions. This conference aims to address the historical formation of these debates. Since the late nineteenth century, the conceptual and disciplinary frames of reference imposed by imperialist domination underwent a near constant series of negotiations, transfigurations and contestations. Artists, art critics and art historians in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe have challenged the definition and conceptualization of art and its limitations. The severe crisis of art historical writing after World War I, for example, provoked a fundamental reorientation towards developing new terms and methods accompanied by an engagement with artists and art historians outside Europe.

“Questioning Narratives, Negotiating Frameworks” conceives art historical narratives, artworks and exhibitions as venues of comparison, interaction and transformation. It traces those processes of negotiation that critically engage with social, political, economic, cultural and aesthetic values and hierarchies. The conference examines the dynamics inherent in art that generate discourses on cultural identities, on concepts such as the avant-garde, modernity and on its concomitant catchwords ‘authenticity’ and ‘originality’.

Annual Conference of the DFG-Research Unit 1703 Transcultural Negotiations in the Ambits of Art. Comparative Perspectives on Historical Contexts and Contemporary Constellations

5 to 7 December 2013

Organized by Project Area C From the Invention of “World Art” to the Decentralization of Modernism in cooperation with the DFG Research Projects Landscape, Canon and Intermediality in Chinese Painting of the 1930s and 1940s and Animated Realities. Radical Performative Strategies of Participation and Re-Animation as Representational Critique.

Venues:
Freie Universität Berlin, Kunsthistorisches Institut
Koserstraße 20, 14195 Berlin, Hörsaal 8 (Lecture Hall)
Museen Dahlem
Lansstraße 8, 14195 Berlin, Großer Vortragssaal (Large Auditorium)

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The conference is free and open to the public.
Thursday, 5 December 2013
Freie Universität Berlin, Kunsthistorisches Institut, Hörsaal B
18:00 Gregor Stemmlrich (Berlin)
Opening
18:30 Matthew Rampley (Birmingham)
World Art Studies and the New Darwinism
Reception

Friday, 6 December 2013
Museen Dahlem, Großer Vortragssaal
9:30 Viola König (Ethnologisches Museum, SMB)
Welcome Remarks
Panel 1: Negotiating Art-Historical Narratives
9:45 Gregor Stemmlrich (Berlin)
Introduction
10:00 Michael Asbury (London)
Some Notes on the Contamination and Quarantine of Brazilian Modern Art
10:30 Paola Ivanov (Berlin)
Rethinking Coevalness: Entangled History and the Objects of Ethnographic Museums
11:00 Discussion
11:30 Coffee Break
12:00 Wilke Schrage (Berlin)
From the Ogata-Lineage to the Korin-School: Images as Mediators of Identity in Art-Historical Narratives
12:30 Juliane Roth (Berlin)
Comparing the Histories of Chinese and Western Landscape Painting: Historiography and Artistic Practice in "National Painting Monthly" (1914–25)
13:00 Discussion
13:30 Lunch Break
14:30 Georg Vasold (Berlin)
Looking beyond Europe: Josef Strzygowski and the Re-Evaluation of Art History in the 1920s
15:00 Sylvester Okwunodu Ogbechie (Santa Barbara)
Art, Nationalism and Modernist Histories: Writing Art History in South Africa and Nigeria
15:30 Discussion
16:00 Wrap-up Discussion Day 1

Saturday, 7 December 2013
Museen Dahlem, Großer Vortragssaal
Panel 2: Questioning Frameworks of Art
9:45 Tobias Wendl (Berlin)
Introduction
10:00 Shigemi Inaga (Kyoto)
Expressionism and Qiyun Shengdong/Kin Seido: Re-Evaluating the Ming-Qing Dynasties Chinese Painting in Modern Japan. Hashimoto Kenzetsu and Kyoto School Sinologists, 1919–1930
10:30 Isabel Wünsche (Bremen)
Transgressing National Borders and Artistic Styles: The November Group and the International Avant-Garde in Berlin during the Interwar Period
11:00 Discussion
11:30 Coffee Break
12:00 Partha Mitter (Oxford)
Jamini Roy: Negotiating the Global from a Local Perspective
12:30 Melanie Klein (Berlin)
Modes of Creation: Art Teaching in South Africa and Uganda between Theory and Practice
13:00 Discussion
13:30 Lunch Break
14:30 Tomoko Matsune (Berlin)
Experimenting Within, Between and Beyond Frames: Gutai’s Art of Experience
15:00 Pauline Bachmann (Berlin)
Concrete Art and Embodiment: Artistic Strategies in Brazilian Neoconcretism between Local and Global Venues
15:30 Birgit Hopfener (Berlin)
Participation is the Answer but what are the Questions? Critical Negotiations of Participatory Art Discourses in Contemporary China
15:30 Discussion
16:00 Wrap-up Discussion Day 2