Present’s disjunctive unity. Constructing and deconstructing histories of contemporary cultural and aesthetic practices

November 26th – 28th, 2015, Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin / John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10, 10557 Berlin

International conference and kick-off event for the “Research Network for Critical Transcultural Perspectives on Artistic and Visual Practices” (preliminary title)

Thursday, November 26th, 2015, 5.30 – 8.00 pm

5.30 – 6.00 pm  Welcome and Introduction [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

Panel: Identifying contemporaneities [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

6.00 – 6.15 pm  Introduction: Franziska Koch (Heidelberg)

6.15 – 7.00 pm  Knut Ebeling (Berlin): "Digging for Now. An Archaeology of Contemporaneity"

7.00 – 7.45 pm  Atreyee Gupta (Berlin/San Francisco Bay Area): "The Future-oriented Topographies of Desire: Insurgent Photomontage in Interwar India"

8.00 pm  Casual Get Together of all Invited Participants [Café Global]

Friday, November 27th, 2015, 9.00 am – 3.00 pm (closed program) and 3.00 – 6.00 pm and 7.30 – 9.00 pm (public program)

9.00 – 11.00 am  Academic "Speed Dating" Session [Konferenzraum 1/conference room 1]

11.00 – 11.30 am  Coffee Break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm  Workshop I [Konferenzraum 3/conference room 3]
"The Cruelty of the Other" conceived and chaired by Liesbeth Minnaard (Leiden) und Kea Wienand (Oldenburg)

Workshop II [Konferenzraum 2/conference room 2]
"The Discovery of Queerness. Intricate Trails of a Travelling Concept" conceived and chaired by Melanie Klein (Berlin)

Workshop III [Konferenzraum 1/conference room 1]
"Repetition, Acceleration, Disruption. Time Structures and Time Perception in the Visual Arts from a Transcultural Perspective" conceived and chaired by Annette Bhagwati (Berlin) and Kirsten Einfeldt (Berlin) Please note: Due to illness A. Bhagwati will be represented by Olga von Schubert.

1.30 – 3.00 pm  Lunch Break
Panel: Criticality and agency [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

3.00 – 3.15 pm  Introduction: Kerstin Schankweiler (Berlin)

3.15 – 4.00 pm  Tobias Wendl (Berlin): "Neoliberalism and Contemporary Arts in Africa"

4.00 – 4.45 pm  Paul Gladston (Nottingham): "Contemporary Art and the (Differentiated) Limits of Criticality"

4.45 – 5.00 pm  Coffee Break

5.00 – 6.30 pm  Current exhibition at Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin "Wohnungsfrage" – guided tour and discussion with director Bernd Scherer (optional for all participants)

Artist Talk

7.30 – 9.00 pm  "Of Heroines and New Homosexuals." With Ato Malinda (Rotterdam/Nairobi) and Milumbe Haimbe (Lusaka). Moderation: Melanie Klein (Berlin) [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

Saturday, November 28th, 2015, 9.00 am – 2.30 pm (closed program) and 3.30 – 8.45 pm (public program)

9.00 – 11.00 am  Workshop IV [Konferenzraum 3/conference room 3]
"Ethnographic Museums: Objects, History and Transcultural Contemporaneities” conceived and chaired by Philippe Cordez (Munich)

Workshop V [Konferenzraum 2/conference room 2]
“Are Animals Cultural Brokers?” conceived and chaired by Silke Förschler and Stephanie Zehnle (Kassel)

Workshop VI [Konferenzraum 1/conference room 1]
“Topologies of Art in Relationship to Life. Transcultural Negotiations of Art’s Social and Critical Function” conceived and chaired by Birgit Hopfener (Berlin)

11.00 – 11.30 am  Coffee Break

11.30 am – 1.00 pm  Constitution of the “Research Network for Critical Transcultural Perspectives on Artistic and Aesthetic Practices” [Konferenzraum 1/conference room 1]

1.00 – 2.30 pm  Lunch Break
Panel: Thinking through the past [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

3.30 – 3.45 pm  Introduction: Franziska Koch (Heidelberg)
3.45 – 4.30 pm  Francesca Tarocco (Shanghai): "Berlin Buddha: Contemporary Art Practices and Post-Secular China"
4.30 – 5.15 pm  Fabian Heubel (Taipei): "Revolution and Transformation in Contemporary Mountain-Water-Painting"

5.15 – 5.30 pm  Break
5.30 – 6.15 pm  Monica Juneja (Heidelberg): "Between Abstinence and Re-enchantment – Making Place for Tradition in Contemporary Art"

6.15 – 6.45 pm  Coffee Break

Panel: Constructions of temporalities [Theatersaal/theatre hall]

6.45 – 7.00 pm  Introduction: Kirsten Einfeldt (Berlin)
7.00 – 7.45 pm  Philip Rosen (Providence): "The Fragment and the Forecast"
7.45 – 8.30 pm  Lourdes Morales (Mexico City / Montréal): "On the Notions of Direct and Testimonio: Constructing Sync Temporalities through Cinema"

8.30 – 8.45 pm  Public Announcement of the "Research Network for Critical Transcultural Perspectives on Artistic and Aesthetic Practices" [Theatersaal/theatre hall]
The conference is conceived and organized by:

Birgit Hopfener (Free University Berlin), Franziska Koch (Heidelberg University), Kerstin Schankweiler (Free University Berlin), Annette Bhagwati (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin) and Kirsten Einfeldt (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin) in co-operation with the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", Heidelberg University, the Research Group "Transcultural Negotiations in the Ambits of Art", FU Berlin, and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin.

Affiliated projects/researchers who chair the closed workshop sessions of the program:


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