

Aesthetic Languages of the Public Sphere: Paradigm Shifts and „Long Traditions“

Conference at Österreichisches Historisches Institut, Rome

Organized by Anna Schober and Philipp Zitzlsperger

21. – 23. 01.2026

21.1.2026

14:00-14:30 Anna Schober & Philipp Zitzlsperger: Introduction

1. Film and AI aesthetics as spies of the transformation of the public sphere

14:30-15:15 Valerio Coladonato, Claire Demoulin:

Returning Émigrés and the Aesthetics of "Reconstruction": Post-WWII Cinema and Public Sphere in Germany and Italy

15:15-16:00 Julian Blunk:

Art in court: On aesthetic judgment in feature films

16:00-16:30 Pause

16:30-17:15 Annapaola Vacanti:

Synthetic visual landscapes in the age of Generative AI

22.1.2026

2. Spaces of political action

09:30-10:15 Dietrich Erben:

Codes of antiquity and political communication in early modern art

10:15-11:00 Godehard Janzing:

The Shooting and the City. Political Violence and Urban Space in Paris, 1835

11:00-11:30 Pause

11:30-12:15 Martina Nibbeling-Wrießnig:

Subjectivity as an aesthetic concept: places, politics, public diplomacy

12:15-14:30 Lunch

3. Museums as forums of the public sphere

14:30-15:15 Eva Kernbauer:

Exposition, Exhibition, Prostitution: Gendered Public Spheres of Art around 1800

15:15-16:00 Luise Reitstätter:

On Admission Policies and Codes of Conduct: Disciplined Bodies in the Art Museum between Aesthetic Perception and Social Gathering

16:00-16:30 Pause

4. Performance in public space

16:30-17:15 Magdalena Nieslony:

The naked truth? VALIE EXPORT's critique of the media's distortion of perception

17:15-18:00 Denis Viva:

In/visibilization of the Migrant Subject: Maurizio Cattelan's A. C. Forniture Sud (1991)

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5. Social encounters in public space

09:30-10:15 Florian Gucher:

The dandy as an eccentric system breaker: Politics of aesthetic staging in art and public life

10:15-11:00 Gabriele Lorenzoni:

Allegory of Public Happiness: Art, Solidarity, and the Politics of Joy

11:00-11:30 Pause

11:30-12:15 Elisabeth Fritz:

„... where one can go for a walk and enjoy oneself“. Representations of public bathing areas as a socio-aesthetic sphere beyond political action

12:15-12:45 Conclusion