

Lessons Learned? Transcultural Perspectives in Curating and Pedagogies

14–16 July 2022

Location

Online and in-person at the Japanisches Palais, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Conceptualised and organised by

Heidelberg University's team of 'Worlding Public Cultures: The Arts and Social Innovation' [WPC] in partnership with the 'Transcultural Academy', Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

As the drive to expand, explore and inform museum collections through global histories gains momentum, a pressing question remains: what is the role of art historical pedagogy in the museum? The concept of pedagogy is etymologically posited on the distinction between an adult and a child, and privileges teaching over learning. In past decades, there has been a decisive move to rethink the role of museums away from teaching through visuality [Svetlana Alpers] towards becoming sites of emancipatory and critical learning. Exhibitions such as the Documentas X and XI [curated by Catherine David in 1997 and Okwui Enwezor in 2002 respectively] or the iteration of Havana Biennale directed by Gerardo Mosquera in 1989, adopted open transactions across curating, learning and teaching. In addition, a growing number of cross-disciplinary platforms and collectives across the Global North and South—small in scale, locally anchored, and horizontally organised—have brought forth radical modes of cultural critique and transnational networks opposing exploitation, precarity, homophobia, militarisation and xenophobia. The radicalism of such 'micro-organizations' [Marion von Osten] has now begun to rebound on larger institutions. Presently, a number of museums, particularly in Europe and North America, are introducing forms of self-reflection about audiences and collections.

The international Academy, "Lessons Learned? Transcultural Positions in Curating and Pedagogies", explores the successes and failures of existing pedagogical practices in museums, and potentials for new transcultural and 'worlded' approaches. Conceptualised by Heidelberg University's team of the international research platform, 'Worlding Public Cultures: The Arts and Social Innovation', this Academy unfolds as a three-day series of on-site and virtual discussions and exhibition visits around the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden [SKD] from 14–16 July 2022. The museums of the SKD hold amongst the most important and expansive present-day collections in Germany that speak to histories of transcultural collecting and conservation since the 16th century. "Lessons Learned?" is integrated into the second edition of SKD's 'Transcultural Academy' at the Japanisches Palais. This cross-collection initiative will take place in the autumn 2022 with an artists' residency programme. It aims to rethink its own collections and archives, as well as curatorial forms of presentation based on current debates on decolonisation and the involvement of the public.

The discussions and exhibition visits of the three-day programme, "Lessons Learned?", will take place in the Japanisches Palais and talks will be simultaneously streamed online. The programme will conclude with a separate lecture and e-workshop on 20 July 2022 [6.00–18.00 CET on Zoom]. This will feature a guest lecture by Prof. Emerita Claire Farago, two invited responses and a public discussion on how to [un]learn art history through university teaching.

Public Programme

All times are listed in CET. All talks will take place in English, with German translations available simultaneously live online via Zoom.

Thursday 14 July

13.30–13.45 Welcome remarks

Monica Juneja [Heidelberg University/WPC] and Doreen Mende [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden]

Introduction to Worlding Public Cultures

Ming Tiampo [Carleton University/WPC] and Paul Goodwin [University of the Arts London/WPC]

Moderator: Noura Dirani [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden]

13.45–15.15 Panel 1: Emerging Research on Reciprocal Learning across Art Institutions - Futures of Transcultural Knowing

Seung Hee Kim [Heidelberg University/WPC] Introductions

Noura Dirani [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden] "The Transcultural Museum: A Case Study of Collaborative Learning and Exhibiting"

Pansee Atta [Carleton University/WPC] "The Moon upon its Fourteenth Night: Embodied archives, gendered histories, and decolonial storytelling practices"

Nathalia Lavigne [University of São Paulo] "Occupying the Archives: Agency Over Images and Folksonomy developed through Collaborative Initiatives"

Moderator: Moritz Schwörer [Heidelberg University/WPC]

15.15–15.45 Break

15.45–17.15 Panel 1: Emerging Research on Reciprocal Learning across Art Institutions—Futures of Transcultural Knowing [cont.]

Seung Hee Kim [Heidelberg University/WPC] Introductions

Silvia Gaetti [GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts] "CULTURAL AFFAIRS. Exhibiting and Mediating Transculturality"

Di Liu [University of Cambridge] "Practicing lumbung at documenta 15"

Varda Nisar [Concordia University/WPC] "A Case Study of Karachi Art Anti-University"

Moderator: Franziska Kaun [Heidelberg University/WPC]

19.00–20.00 Impulse Discussion: What are Alternative Forms of Research in the Museum?

Friedrich von Bose [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden] in conversation with Birgit Hopfener [Carleton University/WPC]

Friday 15 July

13.30–13.45 Welcome remarks

Franziska Koch [Heidelberg University/WPC]

13.45–15.00 Panel 2: Recuperating Voices through Museum Collections

Ruth B. Phillips [Carleton University] "Teaching with/in the Museum—Indigenous Collections and Ways of Knowing"

Cristina Juan [SOAS, University of London] "SOAPS as Re-membering: An Introduction to the Mapping Philippine Material Culture Project"

Moderator: Miriam Oesterreich [University of the Arts Berlin]

15.00–15.30 Break

15.30–17.00 Panel 3: [Re]Thinking through Exhibitions

Claire Farago [University of Colorado Boulder] "Scraps as it were": Binding Memories. Modelling 'Decolonial' Museum Practices through a Case Study"

Maria Silina [Université du Québec à Montréal] "Copytasting and Materiality of the Local"

Moderator: Monica Juneja

19.00–20.00 Impulse Discussion: How do Cultural Institutions Interact with Society?

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden], Larissa Förster [German Lost Art Foundation] in conversation with Chiara de Cesari [University of Amsterdam/WPC]

Saturday 16 July

10.00–10.15 Welcome remarks

Eva Bentcheva [Heidelberg University/WPC]

10.15–11.30 Panel 4: Identifying Problem Spaces and Absences in Archives

Carine Zaayman [Vrije University Amsterdam/WPC] "Anarchive and Repertoire"

Doreen Mende [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden] "Geopolitics of Exhibiting: A Transhistoric Pharmakon through a Sealed Envelope of 1985"

Moderator: Paul Goodwin [University of the Arts London/WPC]

11.15–11.45 Break

11.45–12.30 Panel 5: Situating Art in Communities and Contexts

Sarah Hegenbart [Technical University Munich] "Differences within Communities: The Decolonial Museum as Platform for Forming Alliances"

Nuraini Juliastuti [University of Amsterdam/WPC] "Contextual Education and Commons Museum: On 'Jet Lag', the Impossible School, and a Pedagogy Model which Teaches Us to Stay"

Moderator: Eva Bentcheva [Heidelberg University/WPC]

19.00–20.00 Impulse Discussion: Lessons Learned? How to 'World' our Epistemes

Paul Goodwin [University of the Arts London/WPC], Monica Juneja [Heidelberg University/WPC], Franziska Koch [Heidelberg University/WPC], Doreen Mende [Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden], Ming Tiampo [Carleton University/WPC]

Wednesday 20 July

16.00–18.00 Lessons Learned? [Part 2]:

A guest lecture by Prof. Emerita Claire Farago [University of Colorado Boulder] and e-workshop "Rethinking Pedagogies: An 'Intellectual Space' for [Un-]Learning Art History"

Registration

The Academy from 14–16 July will take place in person at the Japanisches Palais. For on-site participation, please register on the website: event.skd.museum/Events/Details/0c0bba99-6ffe-4f97-b57c-55e4b30365e4

The conference will also be broadcast live [no registration required] and the link will be published shortly before the event on the website: japanisches-palais.skd.museum/en/frei-raeume/transkulturelle-akademie/

Information on how to register for "Lessons Learned? [Part 2]" is available on the WPC Heidelberg webpage: www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php?id=5128

Credits

Concept and organisation of the Academy Lessons Learned? is by the Worlding Public Cultures team of Heidelberg University: Monica Juneja, Franziska Koch, Eva Bentcheva, Miriam Oesterreich, Franziska Kaun, Moritz Schwörer, Seung Hee Kim and Costina Mochanu.

"Lessons Learned? Transcultural Perspectives in Curating and Pedagogies" is organised as part of the second edition of SKD's 'Transcultural Academy', "Toward a Worlded Public", which will take place in three parts at Japanisches Palais from July to November 2022. This is developed as a partnership between the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden Research Department and the Staatliche Ethnographische Sammlungen Sachsen [State Ethnographic Collections]: Noura Dirani, Leontine Meijer-van Mensch, Doreen Mende, Anna-Lisa Reith.

Funding

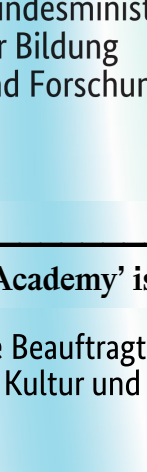
"Lessons Learned? Transcultural Perspectives in Curating and Pedagogies" is part of the public programme of Worlding Public Cultures: The Arts and Social Innovation [WPC], an international research platform funded by a Social Innovation Grant from the Trans-Atlantic Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities and [within Germany] by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research [BMBF/DLR Project Management Agency].

The 'Transcultural Academy' of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden is generously funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

WPC partner institutions

The WPC platform brings together several institutions that pioneer transnational and transcultural research in the fields of art at Carleton University [CA], Concordia University [CA], the University of Montréal [CA], the University of Quebec in Montréal [CA], the University of the Arts London [UK], Heidelberg University [DE], the University of Amsterdam [NL], and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam [NL]. WPC is the first funded project of the international consortium Transnational and Transcultural Arts and Culture Exchange [TrACE].

Japanisches Palais Palaisplatz 11, 01097 Dresden @japanischespalais	Palais Café Wed – Sun from 10 a.m.
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DLR Projektträger

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