

Backstage of Modern Art

Market, Industry and Propaganda that Shaped
the Art and Literature in 1890-1960s

Programme of International Workshop
organised by MODERNITAS MSH ULB

Salle de réception MSH, Building DE1, R. 3.105
1 Av. Antoine Depage, 1050 Ixelles, Bruxelles

Monday 10th February 2025

12.30 Registration of participants

13.00 Opening

13.30 – 15.00 I. panel: The Industrialists in the Backstage of Modern Art

Chair: Marek Nekula

Anne Hultsch (Universität Wien)

Oppelt's Nephew as a Connoisseur and Patron of Wine and Art

Petra James (MODERNITAS Université libre de Bruxelles) and Barbora Svobodová
(MODERNITAS Université libre de Bruxelles)

Shoes and Kipling: Poems of British Colonialism in Interwar Czechoslovakia

Veronika Králová (Masaryk University Brno)

*The Association of Patrons Kulturkreis as a Promoter of Abstract Art in Post-War
West Germany*

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.30 II. panel: Technologies, Labour and Politics

Chair: Deaglán Ó Donghaile

Virginia Pili (University of Florence)

"Proletarij, na samolete!": the Soviet airforce campaign of 1923

Marta Rakoczy (University of Warsaw)

A Light Bulb for the Polish Countryside: Themersonian Stories for the Young

Jiao Feng (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Artistic Practices under the Literature and Artistic Policies of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party during the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949)

Anastasia Arefieva (independent researcher)

Scientific Organization of Labour in the early Soviet Avant-garde Theatre

19.00 Conference dinner

Tuesday 11th February 2025

9.30 – 11.00 III. panel: Backstage of Modernist Magazines

Chair: Eve Filée

Kate Kangaslahti (MDRN, University of Leuven)

Building a Public for Abstract Art in Britain: Axis Magazine, 1935–1938

Lena Magnone (Collegium de Lyon)

Uncredited Patronesses. The women who Financed Polish modernist magazines

Juliet Simpson (Coventry University)

Vectors of the Modern – Pan Magazine, Berlin, and the Art of News, 1895-1915

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.45 IV. panel: Economies of Artistic Spaces

Chair: Petra James

Anna Pravdová (National Gallery Prague)

Povolozky Gallery and Czech Artists in Paris

Harriet Atkinson (University of Brighton) and Sue Breakell (University of Brighton Design Archives)

'Designing from Home? Negotiation of professional and private life in the career of designer FHK Henrion (1914-1990)'

+short film projection: *Designing From Home*

12.45 – 14.15 Light lunch

14.15 – 15.45 V. panel: Structures of Influence

Chair: Elizaveta Berquin

Merse Pál Szeredi (Kassák Museum, Budapest)

Reconsidering the Financial Background and Production of Lajos Kassák's "Ma" through the Archives (1920–25)

Anastassiya Filcheva (École Normale Supérieure Paris) *online presentation*
Soviet Avant-garde in the "Société Anonyme" Collection: 1st official Sales in Europe

Daria Sorokina (École Normale Supérieure, Paris)
Agents of Influence: Genesis of the Soviet Modernist Children's Books and Their Transnational Reception

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 – 17.45 VI. panel: Concepts, Methods and Theoretical Impulses

Chair: Cristian Cámara Outes

Jan Váňa (Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences)
Can Pre-Bourdieuian Sociology of Literature become a Post-Bourdieuian Alternative?

Ilya Kalinin (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

The Sixth Part of the World Between Epic and Documentary Essay, or Two Political Economies of the Avant-Garde

Willem Jan Renders (independent researcher and curator)

The Isms of Art: a New Transcultural Canon

Wednesday 12th February 2025

9.30 – 11.00 VII. panel: Between East and West

Chair: Dennis Ioffe

Františka Schormová (Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences and University of Hradec Králové)

Internationalist Authors, Czechoslovak Money

Klára Kudlová (Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

Agents of Transfer: The Role of Diplomacy and Theatre Institutions in bringing Karel Čapek to the UK

Anastasiia Oleshchuk (University of Oxford)

Constructing a Revolutionary Reader and Revolutionary Propaganda During the Reign of Nicholas II: the case of Vladimir Bonch-Bruевич's anthology Selected Works of Russian Poetry (1894–1908)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 VIII. panel: Artistic Practises - Art Groups and Movements

Chair: Barbora Svobodová

Andrea Kollnitz (Stockholm university)

Individual vs Collective – Revisiting the Swedish Halmstad group

Kateřina Piorecká (Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

The invisible women of the Czech literary avant-garde

Kristóf Nagy (Central European University, Vienna, Central European Research Institute for Art History (KEMKI) and Eötvös Loránd University), *online presentation*

Art from the Margins: Socialist Movements and the Forgotten Backstage of Eastern European Art

13.00 – 14.30 Light lunch

14.30 – 16.30 IX. panel: Art Market, Modernisms and Avant-Garde

Chair: Martina Mecco

Vera Otdelnova (University of Oxford)

Art for Export: Commercial Exhibitions of Soviet Painting in Western Europe in the 1960s–80s.

Dennis Ioffe (MODERNITAS Université libre de Bruxelles)

Shadow Markets and Silent Resistance: The Economic Circulation of Soviet Nonconformist Art

Vera Guseynova (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris and the CEFRES, Prague)

International circulation of the Soviet Unofficial Art Between the Global Art Market and Parallel Economical Exchanges

Deaglán Ó Donghaile (Liverpool John Moores University)

Oscar Wilde, and the Market for Revolutionary Culture: “The Soul of Man Under Socialism” and The Fortnightly Review

16.30 – 17.00 Closing debate