

International Conference

**French Artistic Culture and Post-war Socialist Europe**

Glyptothèque of Croatian Academy of Arts and Science, Zagreb

24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015

In the last decade we witnessed a significant number of discussions on cultural and artistic concepts circulating post-war Europe and challenging the perception of Iron Curtain as an impermeable obstacle to the intellectual exchange between the socialist and capitalist political systems.

A convincing example in that regard is the idea of the synthesis of arts that – after it was (re)conceptualised within the context of French artistic culture at the end of 1940's and the beginning of 1950's – spread all over Europe and became highly influential among artists, architects and critics from the East and West alike. Pointing to the shared notion of progress and social modernisation, the idea of synthesis was one amongst the numerous post-war "close encounters" between socialist Europe and French artistic culture that are in the focus of our interest.

Taking into account the ideological and intellectual complexities of cultural translation, which form the basis of these "close encounters", the objective of the conference is to address the question of how different actors in socialist Europe (architects, painters, sculptors, designers, art critics, philosophers, theorists, etc.) have understood and responded to artistic and intellectual concepts and ideas articulated within the context of French post-war culture. More precisely – we are interested in how these concepts and ideas were transformed, redefined and applied to various local projects in order to meet political, ideological and social requirements of a particular historic moment. Interest in practical, as well as theoretical issues, allows us to set up discussions at this conference in the framework of intellectual debates about the New Humanism and humanisation of living environment, about the philosophical currents of the time (Existentialism, West and East European Marxism), and to place them in the context of disputes on aesthetic (political) values of post-war artistic culture. It also allows for the examination of various discourses and spatial concepts that were supporting but also challenging modernist authority-structures.

This conference is the result of three year project *Parisian Art Scene and Croatian Modern Art*, funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.

Organizers: Institute of Art History, Zagreb; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
University of Zagreb

Partner institutions: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia; Glyptothèque of Croatian  
Academy of Arts and Science

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Tamara Bjažić Klarin  
Sanja Horvatinčić  
Sanja Sekelj  
Nikola Bojić

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME:**

**September 24<sup>th</sup> 2015**

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9.00 – 10.30    **Registration**

10.30 – 11.00    **Welcome addresses and introduction**

- Representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia – *Welcome address*
- Mirjana Repanić Braun (Head of the Institute of Art History Scientific Council) – *Welcome address*
- Ljiljana Kolečnik (Head of the Conference Program Committee): *French Artistic Culture and Post-war Socialist Europe*

**11.00 – 13.30        SESSION I**

- **Mari Árvai and Daniel Véri** (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): *The Strange Case of Existentialism and Franz Kafka in Hungarian Art*
- **Irena Kraševac** (Institute of Art History, Zagreb): *André Malraux and Croatian Art History*
- **Miloš Čipranić** (Independent researcher, Belgrade): *A Return Ticket – Merleau-Ponty in Sarajevo*

Discussion

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break

**14.30 – 16.30      SESSION II**

- **Georgiana Medrea** (University of Bucharest): *The Orientation of the Franco-Romanian Cultural Exchange during the Communist Period*
- **Ljiljana Kolečnik** (Institute of Art History, Zagreb): *French and Yugoslav cultural relations in the 1950's*
- **Simone Wille** (University of Innsbruck): *Spaces of Co-Existence: Transnational and Transcontinental Modernism between Lahore, Bombay, Paris, and Prague (ca. 1938–1966).*

Discussion

19.00 Reception for the conference participants in *Klub književnika* (Trg bana J. Jelačića 7/1)

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**

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**10.00 – 13.30      SESSION III**

- **Piotr Bernatowicz** (Institute of Art History, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań): *Reception of Le Corbusier's Ideas in Projects of Artistic and Research Workshops in Warsaw*
- **Vedran Ivanković** (Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb): *Le Corbusier's l'Unité de Marseille – Symbolic Sense of the Reconstruction of France after the World War II (Story of Different Socialism)*
- **Tamara Bjažić Klarin** (Institute for Art History, Zagreb): *Synthesis in Architecture – Towards a New Architectural Expression*

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break

- **Stela Tasheva** (Institute for Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia): *Le Corbusier and Post-war Architectural Graphics in Bulgaria*

- **Korinna Zinovia Weber** (Technical University, Munich): *Georges Candilis – Architect, Urbanist and Narrator of Communist Ideas in Capitalist World*  
Discussion

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch break

#### 14.30 – 17.30 SESSION IV

- **Helena Demakova** (Art Academy of Latvia): *Jean Bazaine and the Latvian Second French Group*
- **Vesna Kruljac** (National Museum, Belgrade): *Art Informel in the Polemical Context of Serbian Culture During the 1950's and 1960's*
- **Slađana Mitrović** (Ljubljana Graduate School of Humanities): *Considering Art Informel in Slovenian Art in the 1960's*

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

- **Irina Genova** (Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia): *French vs American Art in Bulgaria During the 1960's. "Paris School", "Left Wing" Artists, Pablo Picasso vs American Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art in Bulgarian Art Criticism*
- **Ana Peraica** (Independent scholar and freelance curator): *From Anthropological to Ethnological Photography: The influence on pre-Magnum French Photographers on Croatian Press Photography*  
Final Discussion

20.00 Closing dinner for the Conference participants in the restaurant *Bistro Fotić* (Ljudevita Gaja Street 25)

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015\***

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#### **\*Programme for the Conference participants organized by the Institute of Art History (optional)**

10.00 – 11.30 *Croatian Modern Architecture and French Influences – Zagreb city walk* (guide: Tamara Bjažić Klarin)

- 12.00 – 13.00 *Croatian Post-War Painting and French Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Permanent Collection – guided tour (guide: Ljiljana Kolešnik)
- 13.30 – 14.45 Lunch break
- 15.00 – 16.30 Visit to the exhibition of Croatian contemporary photography *This is (not) my World*, Gallery Klovićevi dvori