

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Art History, its Methods, Ideas and Institutions in Austria-Hungary, 1873-1918 28th-30th September 2023 Cracow, Poland**

Polish Academy of Sciences and the Department of Art History at the Jagiellonian University

The year 2023 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment in 1873 of the Commission on Art History of the Academy of Science and Arts in Cracow. This jubilee thus offers a suitable occasion to reflect on art history in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and in relation to the broader development of modern humanistic disciplines.

Recent years have seen a marked growth of research into art historical writing in central Europe. With few exceptions, however, its focus has been on how art historians sought to promote ideas of national identities, by identifying, for example, national artistic characteristics and canons.

This conference seeks to go beyond such limited parameters to consider how art historians in the Habsburg Empire engaged with new and emerging ideas about the character of discipline art history should be. In this respect, the year 1873 was a significant turning point, for it marked the first International Congress of Art Historians, held in Vienna, when discussion took place as to how to define art history as a scientific discipline.

The conference thus invites contributions that address the following topics and questions:

- How did art historians across the Habsburg Empire engage with and influence ideas of 'scientific' art history from 1873 onwards? What did 'scientific' mean? What forms had art historical writing taken in the earlier part of the century? How was it related to the preoccupations of later scholars?
- Considerable attention has been given to the theoretical ideas of figures such as Heinrich Wölfflin and Alois Riegl. How did art historians elsewhere in Austria-Hungary respond to such initiatives? Did they make their own parallel attempts to apply ideas from psychology and aesthetics to art historical analysis? What were the preferred methodological approaches in, for example, Cracow, Prague, or Budapest?

- Apart from the question of 'national art,' were there other preferred topics of interest? Are their commonalities binding different parts of the Empire together in this respect?
- As art history became an established discipline in the final quarter of the nineteenth century, was this reflected in the emergence of discipline-specific professional vocabulary?
- Can one observe parallels with other emerging disciplines, such as archaeology, history, the study of literature, musicology, anthropology?
- The period of this conference coincides with intensification of the European colonial project. Central Europe was not an exception. How did scholars in the Habsburg Empire address the topic of non-European art?
- If 1873 marked establishment of an international community of professionals, what kinds of networks did art historians in the Habsburg Empire set up with their peers elsewhere in Europe and beyond?
- Art historical scholarship was produced in different institutions: universities, museums, monument protection offices, schools, art academies. How did they affect the genres and varied strategies of scholarship produced there and the interests of specific scholars? How, too, was art historical knowledge popularized and disseminated beyond the confines of the art historical profession?

A draft paper submitted for a 20 to 30 minutes presentation should include:

- The title of the paper with a summary (max. 1800 characters in length);
- The author's name, workplace and e-mail address.

Please submit the draft of your paper with the information requested above directly to [violetta.korsakova@uj.edu.pl](mailto:violetta.korsakova@uj.edu.pl) no later than the 22nd of January 2023.

**Organizing Committee:**

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