

Call for Papers

Hindsight is / 2020:

KU History of Art Graduate Student Symposium,
The Kress Foundation Department of Art History, University of Kansas, Lawrence

Submission date: November 30, 2020

Symposium date: February 18-20, 2021

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anna Arabindan-Kesson, Assistant Professor of African American Art/
Art of the Black Diaspora, Princeton University

Beginnings of decades have always prompted reflection. As we enter the third decade of the twenty-first century, we look back upon that which has come before. As art historians, we train our eyes to make new discoveries about our present moment by looking to the past. Throughout history artists have mined the rich resources of tradition and memory, drawing on the work of their predecessors and/or historical models to inform their own artistic practice. With this symposium, we hope to explore how history shapes us and the art we create and how we in turn shape history. We would like to question what is history and who defines it? How should we negotiate the discrepancies between cultural memory and documented history? How do artists reflect upon their own times or on the past?

A number of scholars utilize hindsight in order to make new observations about works of art. Frameworks such as postcolonial, feminist, and queer theory allow us to examine what supposedly neutral historical documents signify in our contemporary moment.

We invite proposals for 20-minute paper presentations that explore some of the ways in which artists and/or art historians negotiate and engage with history broadly defined, as well as its lasting effects. We welcome proposals from current graduate students at the M.A. or Ph.D. level that address topics from a wide range of time periods and geographic locations, as well as object-based and theoretical approaches.

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Reevaluation of canonical and/or overlooked artists
- Memory
- Tradition
- Historiography
- Revival/Renovation/Pastiche
- Artists dealing with vision/sight
- Antiquarianism
- Historical constructs regarding identity, race, and/or culture
- Postcolonialism and Postcolonial Theory
- Post-modern methodological scopes (i.e.: feminist/queer/cultural hybridity) applied to noncontemporary works
- Revisionist History
- Copies/Imitations

Please submit an abstract (250 – 300 words) and C.V. to kusymposium@gmail.com by November 30, 2020. We will notify successful applicants by January 4, 2021, with the final presentation paper due no later than February 10.