

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE „ART READINGS 2023“

OLD ART MODULE

Institute of Art Studies

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Sofia



METAMORPHOSES

April 20 – 22, 2023

Venue: Sofia, 21 Krakra Str., Institute of Art Studies

For another year, the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences organizes the *Art Readings* International Scientific Conference. The theme proposed for this edition emphasizes the idea of art as a continuous process of change, where the transformations of the artistic form, its content and function are always related to certain influencing factors. The goal of the organizers is to focus the discussion precisely on the various mechanisms that drive the transformations of the artistic image. The title of the conference inevitably contains allusions to Ovid's "Metamorphoses", which to a certain extent also influence the choice of possible sub-themes, presented, of course, in a much wider interpretive context:

- Transformation of meanings: integration of narratives or individual elements of one culture in the art of another era; motifs from ancient mythology or from the Old Testament in Christian art; allegories, personifications, pagan gods and mythical creatures in Christian art.

- Palimpsest: not only found in manuscripts, but also in other areas of art, where characteristics associated with this term can be observed, for example, the transformations of the same

monument of church architecture, mural painting or icon over the centuries, the overpainting of frescoes or of icons and their covering with precious metal revetments; changes in the function, form or dedication of a sacred object.

- Spolia: reuse of elements included in a new context that differs from the original one in functional and aesthetic terms. Just as spolia are transformed when they are inserted, so do they, to a certain extent, transform the objects in which they are incorporated.

An opportunity is given for discussion of questions concerning the alteration or restoration of the original context of a work; *damnatio memoriae*, "destruction of the idol" or declaration of succession; "plunder", building material, utilitarian solution or relic storage.

Scholars working on similar themes in areas other than art history are also encouraged to apply. Young researchers, postdocs and doctoral students shall not be less than 10% of the participants. The conference working languages are English and Bulgarian; whereas the conference proceedings will be published as a book, and will also include papers in French and German. The organizers will apply for funding in 2022 and the hope is to bring participants together in person in 2023. Perhaps limited accommodations will be provided for some of the participants. All applicants should submit abstracts of 300 to 500 words, together with accompanying short CVs, in English (required to receive funding) to: art.readings.2023@gmail.com. An academic CV template is available to download at <https://www.fni.bg/?q=node/527>

Organizing Committee:

Ralitsa Rousseva

Iva Doseva

Margarita Kuyumdzhieva

International Advisory Board (in alphabetical order):

Andrea Babuin

Emmanuel Moutafov

Konstantinos Giakoumis

Nenad Makulijevic

Vincent Debais

Important Dates:

1 September 2022: Deadline for submission of abstracts and CVs;

15 October 2022: Notification of applicants on the outcome of their proposals;

1 March 2023: Final deadline for the conference programme.