

For another year, the Institute of Arts Study at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is organizing an International Scientific Conference, in which well-established and young scientists from Bulgaria and abroad will have the opportunity to participate. The topic of the Art Readings in 2026 is *Chronos and Topos* which suggests an endless interpretive field, numerous subjects, and rich theoretical issues from Antiquity to the present day.

The topic *Chronos and Topos* can be unfolded in the following directions

Chronos/Kairos/Eon

The meaning of the three terms "chronos," "kairos," and "eon" is synthesized very clearly in the following quote from the Metropolitan John Zizioulas of Pergamon: "Chronos is understood from the moment, and the moment is nothing more than a stop to allow us to look at the past and gaze into the future. Without it, time would be a meaningless flow that pours into death; nothing that happens in it survives. In all creation, only man turns impersonal Chronos into Kairos. This is the privilege and responsibility of the freedom given to him by the Creator - to introduce in time, even if only briefly (mostly during the Divine Liturgy) the presence and taste of eschaton, of that which will not be lost along with the many meaningless things we carry in this life".

Exemplary subjects:

- The problem of time and eternity in Ancient art
- Church art and the cyclical time of ritual.
- Art and the linear time of history
- History and Eschatology
- Time and eternity in canonical art

Place and Space/Topos and Chora

Exemplary subjects:

- Deities and Topoi
- Allegory and symbolism of the topoi in art
- Places: Reality and Fantasy
- Holy places - Earthly Paradise
- The Palace and the Church

Chronotopos

Chronotope is a concept that denotes the relationship between space and time in a work of art. Organization of the depicted world through the interrelation between time and place.

REGISTRATION

Requirements:

- application for participation with a summary in English (up to 500 words) – [download link for the application form with a summary](#)
- scientific biography – [scientific biography format file](#)

Send the completed application form and scientific biography to the email: oldartreadings@abv.bg, as well as to the email of the scientific editors:

Associate prof. Ralitsa Rousseva PhD, email: rrousseva@abv.bg

Associate prof. Marina Koleva PhD, email: koleva_marina@yahoo.com

Assistant prof. Nona Petkova PhD, email: nonapetkova@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Date: Thursday, 16 April – Saturday, 18 April 2026

Working languages: Bulgarian, English, French.

(Please indicate the language of the report in your application!)

Presentation time: 15 minutes.

- It is possible that, in case the conference is approved for additional funding, the organisers will bear the costs of accommodation for the foreign participants.

Organisers and scientific editors:

Associate prof. Ralitsa Rousseva PhD, email: rrousseva@abv.bg

Associate prof. Marina Koleva PhD, email: koleva_marina@yahoo.com

Assistant prof. Nona Petkova PhD, email: nonapetkova@gmail.com

Important dates:

01.09.2025 – deadline for summaries and CVs submission

15.10.2025 – feedback on the submitted proposals to potential participants

01.03.2025 – deadline for the preparation of the conference program

More information about the conference can be found at: <https://artstudies.bg>

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