

EVOKING THE INCOMMENSURABLE – PAINTING THE SUBLIME

In the 18th century, the concept of the sublime constitutes a genuine novelty and a driving force for advancements in the theoretical reflection on the arts throughout Europe. Edmund Burke and Immanuel Kant distinguished the sublime sharply from the beautiful, i.e., the traditional organizing subject of treatises on painting and literature, and emphasized its excessive strain on the senses, its incommensurability with any measure, and its irreducibility to any bounded shape. It thus constituted a harsh contrast to the beautiful and challenged the aesthetic values of pictorial or literary representation.

Moreover, the sublime was also a challenge to artistic practice. Theoretical discourse concerning the sublime often referred much more directly to our experience of nature than to our experience of artistic works. Particularly in the case of Kant, it was not evident that the arts are at all able to evoke anything sublime. Nevertheless, various attempts to paint the sublime can be seen in the genre of landscape painting. The sublime stimulated painters to push the limits of painting and to explore its capabilities anew.

The international conference “Evoking the Incommensurable – Painting the Sublime” will discuss the question of how artists purposefully explored and exploited the limits and capabilities of painting in order to evoke the incommensurable and paint the sublime.

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#PracticesofComparing

LOCATION

Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Rosensäle, Kleiner Sitzungssaal

Fürstengraben 27

07743 Jena

This workshop is organised by members of the Collaborative Research Center (Sonderforschungsbereich, or SFB) 1288 “Practices of Comparing. Ordering and Changing of the World” at Bielefeld University – funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, or DFG).

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Philip James De Loutherbourg, An Avalanche in the Alps (Detail), 1803 / Public Domain

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26.–28.07.2023 | Friedrich Schiller University Jena

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WEDNESDAY, 26.07.2023

01:00 PM Arrival and Registration

01:30 PM **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

PANEL 1

Chair: Johannes Grave

02:00 PM Aris Sarafianos, *Ioannina*
Hard Imitation and the Sublime Real: Art, Exhibitions, Panoramas, Casts and Displays at the Far Ends of Visibility, c. 1800

03:00 PM Coffee Break

03:30 PM Elisabeth Ansel, *Jena*
“Most magnificent and sublime”: Ossian, Blindness, and the Sublime in the Visual Arts

04:30 PM Hélène Ibata, *Strasbourg*
Temporal Vertigo and the Historical Sublime in Turner’s Venice Paintings

05:30 PM Coffee Break

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Robert Doran, *Rochester*
“Moving us to Pity”: Visual Art and Sublimity in Burke, Du Bos, and Kant

FROM 08:00 PM Conference Dinner

THURSDAY, 27.07.2023

09:15 AM **WELCOME**

PANEL 2

Chair: Mira Claire Zadrozny

09:30 AM Yvon Le Scanff, *Paris*
Victor Hugo, “Bringing out the sublime”

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM Caroline van Eck, *Cambridge*
The Animal Sublime circa 1800

12:00 PM Sarah Gould, *Paris*
Mary Somerville’s Scientific Sublime: Picturing the Immaterial

01:00 PM Lunch Break

PANEL 3

Chair: Britta Hochkirchen

02:30 PM Laure Cahen-Maurel, *Bonn*
Viewing Beyond the Visible: The Power of the Imagination from the Kantian to the Romantic Sublime

03:30 PM Coffee Break

04:00 PM Mark Cheetham, *Toronto*
The Incommensurability of Arctic Sublimity: Environmental Stereotypes and the Specificity of the Sublime

05:00 PM Craig Hanson, *Grand Rapids*
Before and After: Temporal Strategies for Effecting the Sublime

FROM 07:30 PM Reception at “Schillers Gartenhaus”

FRIDAY, 28.07.2023

09:15 AM **WELCOME**

PANEL 4

Chair: Arno Schubbach

09:30 AM Marie-Louise Monrad Møller, *Leipzig*
Pauelsen, Dahl, Lundbye – Aspects of the Sublime in Scandinavian Landscape Painting

10:30 AM Adèle Akamatsu, *Paris*
Fjords, Waterfalls and High Mountains: Painting the “rough” and “grand” Landscapes of Norway from Germany (1820s–1860s)

11:30 AM Coffee Break

12:00 PM Nikita Mathias, *Oslo*
Painting the Sublime Beyond Painting. From the Easel to the Cinema

01:00 PM Concluding Discussion

02:00 PM End of Conference

