Rethinking Pictures: A Transatlantic Dialogue

organized by the German Center for Art History, Paris (DFK Paris) and the Terra Foundation for American Art (TFAA)
Paris, 19-20 May 2016

Since the 1980s, theories of visual studies in Anglo-American scholarship and Bildwissenschaft in German art history have expanded the field of potential subjects for study, building an extensive body of literature and introducing innovative methodologies and approaches. Developed nearly contemporaneously, these theories about the nature and reception of images have largely run parallel. Are there ways to think about pictures anew by bringing these models more closely together? Does the move away from visuality towards the material offer possibilities for overcoming early differences between these two approaches? To consider these questions and to celebrate the publication of Picturing (Terra Foundation Essays, Volume 1), the Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte, Paris, and the Terra Foundation for American Art have jointly organized Rethinking Pictures: A Transatlantic Dialogue, an international conference that reflects on the differences and convergences between the intellectual traditions of visual studies and Bildwissenschaft.

May 19 / Terra Foundation for American Art (121 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris)

2.30 p.m. 
Welcome: John DAVIS (Terra Foundation for American Art)

Introduction: Rachael Z. DeLUE (Princeton University)

3.00-4.15 p.m. 
Session 1: Propositions

Maxime BOIDY (Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis) & Stéphane ROTH (Cité de la musique, Paris): “Striking Images: Body Politics on the Streets”

Jakub STEJSKAL (FU Berlin): “Beltling and Summers on Substitution”

Moderator: Victor CLAASS (DFK Paris)

4.15 p.m. 
Break

4.30 – 6.00 p.m. 
Round Table

Rachael Z. DeLUE (Princeton University), Beate FRICKE (University of California, Berkeley), Antonio SOMAINI (Université Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle), Ralph UBL (Universität Basel)

Friday May 20 / Centre allemand d’histoire de l’art (45 rue des Petits Champs, 75001 Paris)

9.30 a.m. 
Welcome: Thomas KIRCHNER (DFK Paris)

9.45-11.00 a.m. 
Session 2: Ways of Picturing

Kristopher KERSEY (University of Richmond): “Built Images: The Mark of Japan and the Terms of the Picture”

Sebastian ZEIDLER (Yale University): “Matisse with Husserl: Rethinking the Picture in 1906”

Moderator: David PETERS CORBETT (University of East Anglia)
11.00 a.m.  Break

11.15 a.m.-12.45 p.m.  Session 3: Picturing and Paint

Robin SCHULDENFREI (Courtauld Institute of Art): “Exigencies of Materializing Vision in Josef Albers’s Homage to a Square”

Lauren KROIZ (University of California, Berkeley): “Tactile: Ad Reinhardt and Black Paintings”

Moderator: Jennifer GREENHILL (University of Southern California)

12.45 -2.00 pm  Lunch Break

2.00 – 3.15 p.m.  Session 4: VISUAL ENVIRONMENTS

Elsje VAN KESSEL (University of St Andrews): “The Forrest and the Trees: Locating Images in Early Modern ‘Abundant Exhibitions’“

Michael LEJA (University of Pennsylvania): “How Did Pictures Become Image Culture?”

Moderator: Godehard JANZING (DFK Paris)

3.15  Break

3.30 -4.45 p.m.  Session 5: PICTURING AND THE LENS

Temenuga TRIFONNOVA (York University, Toronto): “Still/Moving: The Photographic Image in the Post-Medium Condition”


Moderator: Tanya SHEEHAN (Colby College and Archives of American Art Journal)

4.45 pm  Break

5.00 p.m.  KEYNOTE:

James ELKINS (School of the Art Institute of Chicago): “Unresolved Issues in the Conceptualization of the Image”

Moderator: Veerle Thielemans (Terra Foundation for American Art)

This program is free and open to the public. Reservations recommended but not required.

Contact: rethinkingpictures@gmail.com

Terra Foundation for American Art Europe
121 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris

German Center for Art History / Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris
45 rue des Petits-Champs, 75001 Paris

with the support of Université Paris Diderot