Call for Papers: Rethinking cultural values in German art 1900-1999

The end of a turbulent century and the approaching millenium provide an opportune moment to reassess the ways in which German art has perceived itself and has impacted outside Germany. Myths of a prototypically Germanic artistic character have been promulgated at times both from within Germany and by critics operating elsewhere; sometimes with a positive intent, often as a distancing measure. The legacy of the Expressionist movement and the shadow of Nazism, along with the almost iconic status afforded to artists like Käthe Kollwitz, Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer have helped to reinforce these attitudes, while simultaneously problematising other views of Germany's contribution to the visual culture of the twentieth century.

This Session aims to explore and question the construction and modulation of values in German visual culture from around 1900 to the present, from the perspectives of manifestations within Germany itself and their reception and impact internationally. Topics may include: the extent of influence of German expressionist values across Europe before 1940; the impact of foreign cultural identities in Germany throughout the century, and issues of cultural imperialism imposed in Germany after 1945; the emergence of German artists on the international stage since 1970s; the impact of iconic figures as a reproduction of cultural values; changes in critical and historical approaches to the study of German art; the effects of exhibitions of German art; and issues of revivals and reconstructions, and the mapping of possible futures.

All artistic and critical practices or events relating to Germany since 1900 will be considered. We invite papers which offer case studies informed by perspectives arising from the full range of critical and theoretical investigations. We encourage analysis of cultural values that maintains at its centre works of art an invite the participation of artists working today.

An international, two-day session convened by Dr. Colin Rhodes (Loughborough) and Erich Ranfft (London) at the 25th Association of Art Historians Annual Conference: Images and Values 9-11 April 1999 - Southampton England

All proposals and enquiries through Colin Rhodes: Loughborough Collage of Art & Design, Epinal Way, Loughborough, Leics. LE1 3GE England. Tel. 01509/261515, Fax 01509/265515, Email crhodes @ globalnct.co.uk

*After 1. August 98: Colin Rhodes, Loughborough University, School of Art and Design, Loughborough, Leics. LE1 3TU England. Tel.: 01509/263171. Email c.rhodes @ lboro.ac.uk

Proposals should be 1-2 pages in length. Deadline for proposals: no later than end of Dec. 1998