

WORKSHOP
23-24 NOVEMBER 2017

REFLECTIONS ON ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND OBJECTS

THE MUSEUM AS MIRROR



THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

10:15 **Introduction**
Alison Boyd, Eva-Maria Troelenberg, Felicity Bodenstein

PANEL I ENCOUNTERS OF PERCEPTION

10:45 **Worker-Object-Museum: The Skilled Industrial Worker as Museum Visitor**
Claire Jones | *University of Birmingham*

11:30 *Coffee Break*

12:00 **Faster than a Flâneur, more than a Macaroni: British Antiquarians, Connoisseurs and the First Museum Guides c. 1760-1850**
Jonathan King | *Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge*

12:45 **Performing the Self at an Indian World Heritage Site: The Curious Case of Ellora Cave 14**
Sarada Natarajan | *Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin*

13:30 *Lunch Break*

PANEL II ENCOUNTERS WITH BODIES

15:00 **A Private and Public Circulation: Carl Van Vechten's African American Portrait Photographs and Charles Sheeler's African Sculpture Photographs at the Barnes Foundation**
Alison Boyd | *Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Florence*

15:45 **Art as Dialogue: Museum Education as Mediator between Object and Subject**
Nathaniel Prottas | *Wien Museum, Vienna*

16:30 **Wandering Eye / Bodily Confrontations: Lina Bo Bardi's São Paulo Museum of Art**
Adrian Anagnost | *Tulane University, New Orleans*

19:30 *Dinner (for speakers only)*

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

PANEL III ENCOUNTERS WITH HERITAGE

10:30 **Art, Faith, and Belonging: The Golden Madonna in Essen as Mirror of Identity in the 20th and 21st Centuries**
Katharina Christa Schüppel | *Technische Universität Dortmund*

11:15 **Brazilian Modernism, the Affective Economy and the Museum as a Space for Citizenship: Rethinking Lasar Segall's 1943 National Retrospective**
Edith Wolfe | *Tulane University, New Orleans*

12:00 **The Asen. William Kentridge's "Praise of Mistranslation" and the Potentiality of a Riddle**
Elke Anna Werner | *Freie Universität Berlin*

12:45 *Lunch Break*

14:30 *Museum Visit (for speakers only)*

THE MUSEUM AS MIRROR

REFLECTIONS ON ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND OBJECTS

Workshop organized by the Max-Planck-Research Group "Objects in the Contact Zone – The Cross-Cultural Lives of Things"

"The museum is the colossal mirror in which man, finally contemplating himself in all forms, and finding himself literally an object of wonder, abandons himself to the ecstasy expressed in art magazines." Whilst for Georges Bataille (*Documents*, 1929) the mirror was a metaphor of the museum as a whole, the museum selfie can be understood as a symbol of the visitors' desire to document their own individual and embodied experience of an exhibit. Yet this experience—although seemingly unique and personal—is mediated by the conceptual frames the museum itself embodies, which include: aesthetic delectation, academic inquiry and identity formation. In fact, the museum functions at a critical juncture in the mutually constitutive relationship between the visitor's body, the material space of physical objects (displays, architecture) and the construction of social and cultural concepts (such as national identity, race, and gender).

Venue

Photothek in Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Via dei Servi 51
50122 Florence

Organization

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