

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas

XLIV International Art History Colloquium

The Material Turn

October 6–9, 2020 (venue to be defined)

The Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México invites interested persons to submit a proposal to participate in its XLIV International Art History Colloquium to be held from October 6 to 9, 2020.

Without space-time limits, this colloquium aims to discuss the materials and techniques of artistic creations as foundations of their expressive and communicative abilities. The conference will address problems that are central to the study of objects: the relationships among concepts, materials, technologies, media and cultural responses. In recent years, the instruments and methodologies of the “hard sciences” have notably affected the history and conservation of art objects by redefining the temporalities and the cultural implications and relationships implicit in the materials and technologies of art works. The study of the material dimensions of art requires familiarity with different areas of knowledge: art history, history, conservation, archaeology, anthropology and applied sciences, among others, as well as a willingness to explore the extent, tensions and limits of the relationships among them.

Furthermore, the identities and properties and processes of transformation of some materials—especially those of organic origin—are still poorly known. Additionally, from the colloquially called artisanal techniques, to the production through artificial intelligence, new areas of study and reflection have opened on the materiality and technology of the arts. The discussions about materialities lead to the broadening of theoretical problems, so it is necessary to rethink the categories and definitions of concepts such as “materiality,” “technique” and “tradition.”

Possible themes for papers:

1. Techniques, traditions and technologies in the production of cultural objects.
2. The contribution of materials to the meanings and discourses on artistic objects: philosophical and epistemological concerns.
3. The eras and spaces of art materials and technologies.
4. Documents, treatises and literature concerning the materials and techniques of art.
5. Censorship, substitution of materials and iconoclasm.
6. The chronology of materials: current uses and problems of art conservation and cultural heritage.

Guidelines

1. Proposals must be submitted in Spanish or English, must have a tentative title and also include a summary, not exceeding 500 words, of the presentation to be carried out. Only one proposal per author will be accepted. You must explicitly indicate which of the subject(s) suggested above you will be addressing. Please attach a résumé of not more than 150 words, highlighting your main academic works, as well as your institutional affiliation.

2. The deadline for receiving proposals will be **May 4, 2020** and can be registered as of February 7, 2020 at www.esteticas.unam.mx. The Scientific Committee composed of specialists from IIE-UNAM and other institutions will examine the proposals and select them based on quality criteria and thematic relevance. The decision of the committee will be announced during the first week of June and will be final. The selected speakers will not pay registration fee and will have support for their accommodation during the dates of the colloquium.

3. Once the papers are accepted, the text's requirements are: 2,500 words or 10 double-spaced pages to be read in a maximum of 20 minutes. Speakers must complete a form regarding the copyrights of the paper and its images, as well as on the webcast on the date of their intervention. By submitting his/her/their text, authors agree to be included in the corresponding proceedings, prior academic arbitration.

4. The paper to be presented should be delivered before **September 11, 2020** in order for the commentators to prepare their interventions. Final versions for publication must comply with the following characteristics: a maximum of 25 pages (8,000 words) using Chicago referencing system and 6 images, to be submitted to the corresponding arbitration process. The IIE reserves the right not to publish certain images depending on their cost, with the understanding that speakers must obtain all image reproduction permits. The deadline to submit the accepted texts for publication will be November 13, 2020. There will be no extension.

5. Any matter not foreseen in this call will be solved by the Scientific Committee with the support of the Directorate of the Institute.

Scientific Committee

Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM

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Manuel Espinosa Pesqueira

Renato González Mello

Yareli Jaidar

María Teresa Uriarte

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