

# The imagination of the end: futures, stories of extermination speculations

## **XLVIII International Colloquium on Art History**

Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM

October 8 to 11, 2024 (face-to-face)

**Venue to be defined**

Call for participation

Available at: [www.esteticas.unam.mx](http://www.esteticas.unam.mx)

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## Call for participation

The Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas of the National Autonomous University of Mexico calls for participation in its XLVIII International Colloquium on Art History whose theme is "The imagination of the end: futurities, stories of extermination, speculations."

For several reasons, the theme of the end of the world and the end of history has once again become present in the collective imagination. The prospect of ecological catastrophe due to the climate crisis, the fading of the utopias that partially built the expectations of the future and the huge geopolitical and political instability of the present have motivated a rebirth of apocalyptic imaginations, as well as new ways of establishing our relationship with the prospective and the construction of the here-after. If the modern era was crossed by many ramifications of the idea of progress and the notion of the future, the present age is characterized by despair about collective fate and the figuration of new poetics of the speculation of futurities in projects such as the generation of multispecies kinships, by Donna Haraway, the culture of so-called Afropessimism or the public emergence of subaltern anger as a political project.

The images of the end and the Apocalypse, the myths of the end of the world, the idea of political closure, the projection of dystopia henceforth, as well as the historical scenarios that refer to the narratives after the end, such as the Augustinian formulations about what ensues after Doomsday, and in general the visions of what happens beyond time in many cultures, are some of the topics that will be addressed in this Colloquium.

The following thematic lines are proposed:

1. Mythical destruction: from the Apocalypse to the Fifth Sun.
2. The politics of Doomsday: visions of Armageddon in art and theory.
3. Despair: art and catastrophism.
4. Wrath: angry artistic practices.
5. Compost and rotting: glimpses of a post-human future.

6. Futurities without a future: the theorization of the Anthropocene crisis and failed democracy as a reinvention of political fiction.
7. The aesthetic or ritual elaboration of time plagued by its mythical aging, entropy, or cyclical decay.

## Guidelines

1. Proposals must be unpublished, submitted in Spanish or English, must have a tentative title and also include an abstract, not exceeding 500 words, of the presentation to be carried out. Only one proposal per person or per group—in the case of collective proposals—will be received. 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 8, 2024**, and can be registered as of March 1, 2023, at [www.esteticas.unam.mx](http://www.esteticas.unam.mx). The Scientific Committee composed of specialists from IIE-UNAM will examine the proposals and select them based on quality criteria and thematic relevance.
3. The decision of the Committee will be announced on **June 17, 2024** at [www.esteticas.unam.mx](http://www.esteticas.unam.mx)., and will be final.
4. The accepted speakers agree to present their paper on the day and time assigned during the XLVIII International Art History to be held in person in a Mexican city yet to be defined from October 8 to 11, 2024.
5. The Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas will cover the lodging expenses in a double room for the selected speakers and will have a bus to travel to the host city from Mexico City.
6. 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.
7. The paper to be presented should be delivered before **September 11, 2024**, in order

for the commentators to prepare their interventions

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

Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico City, February 29, 2024.

## Scientific Committee

*Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM*

Dra. Denise Fallena

Dra. Yareli Jáidar

Dra. Riánsares Lozano

Dr. Cuauhtémoc Medina

Dr. Luis Vargas Santiago

Dr. Erik Velásquez

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