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Pommersches
Landesmuseum

The international Conference is funded by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, Essen, and the German Research Foundation, Bonn.

The Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg is an academically independent institution sponsored by the Stiftung Alfried Krupp Kolleg Greifswald.

The international conference asks how after 1800 a "northern" imagery could establish itself in the arts of Northern Europe. By what motifs could the "North" be identified as "North" at all? Was it alone specific subjects or representations of natural phenomena in landscapes through which "Nordic" topics spread? What institutional and social structures fostered these developments? Did specific "ethnic types" come into focus in order to represent another characteristic of "Nordic" art? Did techniques of "scientific" landscape depictions as well as the emphasis on ethnic characteristics lead to national isolation? Recent museological and curatorial debates about a decolonization of images and objects are part of the discourses this conference is also interested in.

"Inventing the pictorial North" aims to present results that resonate in the current humanities and discuss representations of the "North" in a novel way. This happens not only with the intention of portraying the "North" beyond the individual national narratives but also as the overarching topos of an art history that has since the 19th century repeatedly tried to associate geographical spaces with specific motifs and iconographies. The visual construction of the "North" represents a gap that still has to be filled in the humanities. Currently the questions about the attraction of the "North" and its subjects, which were already virulent in the nineteenth century, are re-emerging: as a romantic place of mythical images, as well as places that, in the discourse of worldwide migrational movements, fosters new narratives of longing.

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Inventing the pictorial North

International conference
10 – 12 January 2019

Thursday, 10 January 2019

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Welcome words by Kilian Heck and

Nico Anklam

Public Key Note Lecture

The Romantic Image of the North

Knut Ljøgodt (Oslo)

Moderation: Kilian Heck (Greifswald)

afterwards: Welcome Dinner

Friday, 11 January 2019

9.00 am – 11.00 am

Session I

The "North" as a Topos in National Art Histories

Welcome words by Christian Suhm,

Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg

Two Paths Crossing. Finnish National Identity
and the Idea of Nordic Art in Germany

Timo Huusko (Helsinki)

Let's construct an Opponent to the
Renaissance – The Evocation of the North
in German Art History after 1900.

Kilian Heck (Greifswald)

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm

Session II

The "Northern" Landscape between Science and
Fiction

Northern landscapes? Geology and
archeology in Danish 19th century
landscape paintings

Gry Hedin (Faaborg/Ishøj)

Shaping Perception: Visions of the
Swedish Landscape

Michelle Facos (Bloomington)

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Lunch break

3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Session III

The Transatlantic and (Post-)Colonial "North"

Welcome words by Holger Wandsleb,
ministry of education, science and culture of
Mecklenburg-Pomerania

Art of the Arctic: From North Cape to
Baffin Island

Jan Cox (Sommerset)

A Different North for Indigenous Peoples:
The Christianization of Greenland and Sápmi
in 20th Century Historiography

Cordelia Heß (Greifswald)

"Norway through the Stereoscope" –
American Points of View around 1900

Eva Wattolik (Erlangen/Nürnberg)

Saturday, 12 January 2019

Location: Pommersches Landesmuseum,
Rakower Street 9, Greifswald

9.00 am – 11.00 am

Session IV

National Narratives and Contact Zones in
Northern Germany and Southern Denmark

Welcome words by Birte Frenssen,
Pomeranian State Museum

Three Cheers for the Fatherland:
Agnes Slott-Møller and the Shifting Contours
of Danishness

Thor J. Mednick (Toledo)

Artificial Borders? Painting in Denmark,
Schleswig & Holstein in the Second Half
of the 19th Century

Christel Bair (Greifswald/Jever)

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Coffee break

11.30 am – 1.30 pm

Session V

The "Northern" Landscape as a Pictorial
Discourse between Medium, Space and
Beholder

Topography & Constitutive Blanks – on the
subjective narrativity of landscape painting

Carl-Johan Olsson (Stockholm)

On the limits of the world and the semantics
of an infinite landscape: dynamics of
expansion and closure in Danish painting
of the 19th Century

Nico Anklam (Greifswald/Berlin)

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

Lunch break

3.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Visit of the collection of the Pomeranian
State Museum with Birte Frenssen

4.00 pm

Farewell words by Kilian Heck and
Nico Anklam followed by a reception
in the courtyard of the
Pomeranian State Museum