The Arts and the Senses; Intermediality and the Multisensorial

The Research School of Aesthetics Campus Conference at Stockholm University, Feb. 19.-20. 2009

The interplay of various media and their relations to the senses are central subjects within the aesthetic sciences – art history, philosophy, film studies, literary studies, theatre and dance studies. This conference offers a wide range of perspectives on how the senses are activated, engaged and regulated by our surrounding constellations of media. During the last decades the relations between the arts and the senses have been approached from different theoretical outlooks – technological, historical, cognitive or cultural, for example. This multitude of perspectives is reflected in the ongoing research among the group of Ph. D. students at the Research School of Aesthetics at Stockholm University, as well as in the research of the directors of this school. The two-day Campus Conference will consist of a series of presentations from international scholars and two two-hour workshops with presentations from the students of the school.

Schedule:

Venue: Humanistvillan (the Villa of the Humanities), Frescativägen 24
Further information and updates on www.foest.su.se
No registration is needed.

Thursday Feb. 19:

10.00-12.00 (119, the Villa of the Humanities): Student Workshop 1: Moderator Hannah Hinz
12-13: Lunch break
13.00-13.30 (The auditorium of the Villa of the Humanities): Welcome and opening remarks: The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Kåre Bremer, and the Head of the Research School of Aesthetics at Stockholm University. Prof. Willmar Sauter.
13.30-14.30: Prof. Gregory Currie (Dep. of Philosophy, University of Nottingham): "Irony in Pictures"
14.30-15.00: Break
15.00-16.00: Professor Frederik Tygstrup (Dept. of Literature and Copenhagen Doctoral School, Copenhagen University): "Scapes. On the Organization of Spatial Experience"
16.00-17.00: Associate Professor Christer Johansson (Dept. of Literature, Stockholm University): "Metaphor as intermedial concept"

Moderator: Göran Rossholm
17.00: Wine Reception at the library of the Villa of the Humanities, with short presentations of the Doctoral Schools of Trondheim, Copenhagen and Berlin.
Friday Feb. 20:

10.00-12.00 (119, at the Villa of the Humanities): Student Workshop 2: Moderator Emma Strindmar Norström

12-13: Lunch break

13.00-14.00: Professor Erika Fischer-Lichte, (Dept. of Theatre Studies, Freie Universität, Berlin): "How To Conceive of Performances; An Approach to Interart and Cultural Studies"

14.00-15.00: Associate Professor Ina Blom (Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas at the University of Oslo): "On Lynda Benglis's 'Mumble' (An Instance of Videosociality)"

15.00-15.30: Break

15.30-16.30: Professor Knut Ove Eliassen (Dept. of Literature, University of Trondheim), "The Repugnant, the Sensual Ugly"

16.30-17.30: Final round table discussion

Moderator: Trond Lundemo

Speakers:

Associate Professor Ina Blom (Dept. of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo): Her fields of research and teaching are modernism/avant-garde studies and contemporary art and aesthetics, with a particular focus on media art practices and media aesthetics. A former music critic and DJ, she has also worked extensively as an art critic and curator. She has been a senior curator at the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Oslo (2000), and the curator of the Fluxus/Intermedia Archive at the Henie Onstad Art Center in Oslo (1988-93). Selected writings include: On the Style Site; Art, Sociality and Television Culture (Sternberg Press, New York, 2007); How to (not) Answer a Letter, The Postal Performance of Ray Johnson's (MIT Press, Oslo/Kassel/Sittard, 2003); Joseph Beuys (Gyldendal, Oslo 2001).

Professor Gregory Currie (Dept. of Philosophy, University of Nottingham): He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities and a Past President of the Australasian Association of Philosophy, and editor of the journal Mind and Language and a Past Fellow of St John's College, Oxford. His two recent books are Arts and Minds (Oxford University Press 2004) and Recreative Minds (Oxford University Press 2002) (with Ian Ravenscroft). Gregory Currie's ongoing Research Projects: -The Imagination: conceptual issues concerning the relation of imagination to belief and desire, to play and pretence, to fantasy and supposition; issues in cognitive science concerning mental simulation, evolution, development and psychopathology.
Narrative: fictional and non-fictional narratives and the nature of documentary; narrative and time; the role of narrative in magical, religious and delusional thinking.

Symbolic Culture and the Origins of Art.

Professor Knut Ove Eliassen (Dept. of Literature, University of Trondheim):
Key fields of research: The history of the novel, 18th Century literature and philosophy, the aesthetics of the Baroque, post-structuralism, media theory, theory of aesthetics. Books on Baltasar Gracián, the cultural history of the factory, literary analysis, articles on Foucault, Deleuze, Lyotard, Kittler, media theory, 18th century novels and more. Presently working on a book about literary storage media and another on the aesthetics of the impure.

Professor Erika Fischer-Lichte, (Dept. of Theatre Studies, Freie Universität, Berlin):
From 1995 to 1999 she was President of the International Federation for Theatre Research. She is a member of the Academia Europaea, the Academy of Sciences at Goettingen, and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. She also heads the Institute for Advanced Studies on “Interweaving Performance Cultures”. She has published widely in the fields of aesthetics, theory of literature, art, and theatre, in particular on semiotics and performativity, theatre history, and contemporary theatre. Among her numerous publications are The Transformative Power of Performance: A New Aesthetics (2008, German 2004), Theatre, Sacrifice, Ritual. Exploring Forms of Political Theatre (2005), History of European Drama and Theatre (2002, German 1990), The Show and the Gaze of Theatre: A European Perspective (1997), The Semiotics of Theatre (1992, German 1983), and The Dramatic Touch of Difference: Theatre, Own and Foreign (1990).

Associate Professor Christer Johansson (Dept. of Literature, Stockholm University):
Johanssons dissertation deals with concepts of intermediality, such as sign, representation, iconicity and fictionality, and the interrelations of narrative prose fiction and narrative fiction film. He has published articles on intermediality and narrative theory and is currently working on a project on metaphor, symbol and expression in different media.

Professor Frederik Tygstrup (Dept. of Literature and director of the Copenhagen Doctoral School in Cultural Studies, Copenhagen University):