

February 7 - 8, 2010 • 314 Royce Hall

Aesthetics after the Holocaust

Exploring the Problem of
Aesthetic Reactions to the Holocaust

Can the Holocaust have an aesthetic dimension? "Aesthetics after the Holocaust" will explore this difficult and frequently painful question. Despite famous proscriptions by Theodor Adorno, Elie Wiesel, and others, numerous depictions of the Shoah in literature, film, and other media have insisted that artistic representation is itself a form of testimony. For post-Holocaust generations, moreover, the ways in which memory of the Holocaust is created and preserved have become an essential part of its history. Have second- and third-generation modes of witnessing created a new aesthetic of memory? How have advances in media and technology transformed the problem of representation? How do debates that occurred during and soon after the war relate to those that emerged in subsequent decades?

Images:

Cover (clockwise from top left)

1. Ralph Fiennes as Amon Goeth in Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* (1993).
2. Treblinka Concentration Camp sign at Yad Vashem (Photo: David Shankbone).
3. George Segal's art exhibition of *The Holocaust*.
4. Cover image from Art Spiegelman's *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*.
5. "The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe" in Berlin, designed by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold.
6. Giorgio Cantarini as Giosuè Orefice in Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful* (1998).

This page (top to bottom)

1. Detail of Samuel Bak's painting, *Between Worlds*.
2. Actress Meryl Streep as Sophie Zawistowski and actor Kevin Kline as Nathan Landau in Alan J. Pakula's film adaptation of *Sophie's Choice* (1982).



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Sunday, February 7, 2010

314 Royce Hall

10 AM • Opening Remarks

Carol Bakhos (UCLA)

Eric Sundquist (UCLA)

10:15 AM • "From Holocaust to Post-Holocaust"

Chair: **Todd Presner** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Gary Weissman (University of Cincinnati)

Learning with Hitler in New York

Sharon Oster (University of Redlands)

Figuring the Muselmann: The Object Matter of Holocaust Representation

Monica Osborne (UCLA)

After Representation: On Metonymy and Catastrophe

12 PM • Lunch Break

1:30 PM • "Image and Trauma"

Chair: **Kathleen McHugh** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Joshua Hirsch (Independent Scholar)

Post-Holocaust and Post-Traumatic Cinemas: A Dialogue

Brett Kaplan (University of Illinois)

Collier Schorr and the Landscapes of Holocaust Postmemory

Dora Apel (Wayne State University)

Crossing Boundaries in Post-Zionist Art

3:30 PM • Coffee Break

4 PM • Keynote Address

Lawrence Langer (Simmons College)

Samuel Bak and the Search for an Aesthetics of Atrocity

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The symposium is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. To RSVP to this event, please call (310)267-5327 or email cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu.

Please note that a list of UCLA and Westwood restaurants open for lunch/dinner will be distributed at the conference.

Parking on Sunday will be available at lot 2 at the kiosk on the corner of Hilgard and Westholme from 9am-11am. Parking for Monday will be available at most kiosks, such as the one on Hilgard and Westholme. For maps and parking information, please visit www.transportation.ucla.edu.

Monday, February 8, 2010

314 Royce Hall

10 AM • Opening Remarks

Eric Sundquist (UCLA)

10:15 AM • "Literature and the Unspeakable"

Chair: **Eric Sundquist** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Amy Hungerford (Yale University)

Imagining the Aesthetics of Complicity

Erin McGlothlin (Washington University in St. Louis)

Between the Prohibitive and the Transgressive in Contemporary Jewish Holocaust Literature

Hana Wirth-Nesher (Tel Aviv University)

קבר: Memory Scripts in Holocaust Literature

12 PM • Lunch Break

2 PM • "Artifacts and Archives of Memory"

Chair: **Eric Sundquist** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Michael Bernard-Donals (University of Wisconsin)

Displacements of Memory at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Marianne Hirsch (Columbia University)

The Archives of Postmemory: Albums and Collections in the Digital Age

4 PM • Reception

Images: (L-R)

1. Roberto Benigni, Nicoletta Braschi, and Giorgio Cantarini in *Life is Beautiful* (1998).
2. Detail of Samuel Bak's painting, *Ghetto*.
3. George Segal's art exhibition of *The Holocaust*.
4. "Zugzwang" by Rudolf Herz, shown at the "Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art" exhibition at the Jewish Museum (2002).
5. Cover image from Art Spiegelman's *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*.
6. Treblinka Memorial Stones at the Treblinka Memorial in Poland.
7. Actor Giancarlo as Pasqualino in the film *Pasqualino Settebellezze*. English title: *Seven Beauties* (1975).

