

GESICHTER / FACES**Conference of the Center for Literary and Cultural Research****23 - 25 March 2010****Academy of Arts (Akademie der Künste), Pariser Platz No. 4, 10117 Berlin**

The human face has many names and aspects: it can be a mask or persona, an impression or bust, countenance or visage, a collection of expressive features or a communicative gesture, a photograph or a portrait painting... As the *human face divine* our countenance is, with respect to our likeness to God's own image, exclusively human, while Darwin found in his *Expression of the Emotions* that the human play of features observations belonged firmly within the realm of the animal kingdom. Thus, we are constantly moving between a ,natural' and a ,super-natural' reading of the human face.

Digital photography, morphing, media-produced synthetic faces, and facial surgery have finally reduced the notion of the face as a ,natural' medium for expression and as a marker of identity to absurdity. From this point of view our field of vision opens up onto a history of medical and cultic practices, artistic conventions, symbolic re-writings, and products of the media which indicate that the face has always been more than and distinct from a natural expression of the individual subject.

The history of science and cultural studies of the face have not only unearthed a plethora of facial readings, but have also found many varying techniques by which physical traces – as expression, sign, indicator, stigma – are transformed into interpretable images. This ranges from re-presentations in the realm of religion and the history of art (*vera icon*, death masks, portraits) to the significance of facial characteristics and indicators in the empirical sciences (facial recognition, Facial Action Coding System, electromyographic records). The symposium is meant to gather the divers perspectives on the human face and examine it as an effect of medial, experimental and technical processes in the arts and sciences.

PROGRAM (Update: 18/3/2010)**Tuesday, 23/3/2010**

15.00 Start

- 15.30–17.30 Hans Belting (ZKM Karlsruhe), Das Portrait als Maske des Gesichts
Thomas Macho (HU Berlin), Gesichtsübermalungen
- 18.00–20.00 Gottfried Boehm (Uni Basel), Das Gesicht, das wir sind. Portrait und Identität
Angelika Neuwirth (FU Berlin), Kreis, Quadrat und Kalligraphie – Das Portrait
des Propheten Muhammad in der Vormoderne
Unfortunately this lecture has been cancelled.

Wednesday, 24/3/2010

- 10.00 11.00 Helmut Lethen (IFK Wien), Das Lächeln der Höflichkeit
- 11.30–13.30 Sigrid Weigel (ZfL), Tränen im Gesicht
Monika Wagner (Uni Hamburg), Farben des Gesichts
- 15.00–17.00 Katharina Sykora (HBK Braunschweig), Doppeltes Auge, letzter Blick
Thomas Levin (Uni Princeton): Face Time
- 17.30–19.30 Georges Didi-Huberman (EHESS Paris), Politique du cadre
Jeanette Kohl (UC Riverside), Faces. In different places

Thursday, 25/3/2010

- 10.30–12.30 Albrecht Koschorke (Uni Konstanz), Zur Kulturgeschichte der Nase
Carlo Ginzburg (SNS Pisa), Side glances. A note on Machiavelli
- 14.00–16.00 Gerhard Neumann (FU Berlin, at the moment IFK Wien), Lesbarkeit des Gesichts
in Heines *Florentinischen Nächten*
Irit Rogoff (Goldsmith College London): On the face of ...
- 17.30 Heinrich Heine: Längst vergessene Gesichter
A Collage by Klaus Briegleb, read by Hanns Zischler

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