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Art Scholarships
2020

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Scholarships
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2020 Abstract booklet

Mads Øvlisen PhD Scholarship

Art History before 1900



Ronah Sadan

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Project title

Drawing out traces: the visual documentation of medieval wall paintings in nineteenth-century Denmark

Grant

DKK 2.0 million

Duration

3 years

Place of research

Aarhus University

Abstract

When medieval murals were rediscovered in Danish churches under limewash during the 19th century, a national project of uncovering and restoring them commenced. The artist-restorers who undertook this task documented the murals' content and condition using drawings, tracings, and watercolors. Far from neutral transcriptions of empirical reality, these documentary images, also used as preparatory drawings for invasive reconstructions, were highly selective and often transformative reinterpretations of the murals. Exhibited and reproduced, they also helped shape perceptions of medieval art in Denmark.

My project will study the processes by which these documentary images were made, and contextualize Danish approaches to documentation with contemporary European practices. The ultimate aim of this study is to showcase the complex modern history of medieval murals, which, due to the ravages of time and countless interventions, are highly mediated versions of irremediably lost originals.

Mads Øvlisen PhD Scholarship

Art History after 1900



Jens Emil Elg

Cand.mag.

Project title

Rose Laying the Table
Representations of Africans and people of African descent in Danish art from 1650-1917

Grant

DKK 2.0 million

Duration

3 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

Abstract

This PhD project represents the first major study of images of Africans and people of African descent in Danish art during the period in which Denmark had territories and colonies in The Global South.

Taking its methodological and theoretical point of departure in Black studies and post- and decolonial theory the project focuses on the vast amount of artworks from the period depicting black people – often, but not always, enslaved people and servants. Through thorough analyses of selected works from different centuries and art historical periods the project aims to understand how Denmark's active participation in the transatlantic slave trade influenced – and perhaps even to some extent introduced – black people as a motif in Danish art.

Mads Øvlisen PhD Scholarship

Practice-based Art



Kristoffer Raasted

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Project title

New Connections: Queering the Radio Voice

Grant

DKK 2.0 million

Duration

3 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

Abstract

Kristoffer Raasted holds an MFA in visual arts from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, and is currently conducting the artistic PhD project 'New Connections' at the Institute of Art, Writing, and Research.

The PhD project aims to generate new knowledge within the interdisciplinary field of gender studies, voice, radio, sound art, and DJing. As part of the research project, a podcast studio that webcasts interviews, podcast productions, sound curations, and DJ sets, has been established at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

The objective of the research is to develop new conceptions of the radio voice by involving artists, curators, art historians, and art students directly in the research process, and to interact with the art community as a knowledge production strategy. In this way, the research project provides a platform for creating new networks and connections in the art world, and will culminate in a written PhD dissertation, an extended broadcast, and a zine.

Mads Øvlisen PhD Scholarship

Practice-based Curating



Tijana Mišković

Curator

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Project title

THE ART OF DIASPORA – The diasporic inbetweenness, analysed through artworks created by artists from former Yugoslavia, who live in Denmark

Grant

DKK 2.0 million

Duration

3 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

National Gallery of Denmark

Abstract

Since 2000, Yugoslavian artists have been part of the Danish art scene; still their artworks are driven by a necessity to express about topics that go beyond the Danish context; such as war, migration and exile. My hypothesis is that their artworks are created in “the diasporic inbetweenness” – a stage of displacement, which affects the artists’ approach to subjectivity, cultural identity and political contexts.

By combining analyses of artworks and new curatorial models with theoretic research, in both art and cultural history, this project aims to answer the following questions: How are the artworks created in “the diasporic inbetweenness” contributing to the expansion of the notion of belonging and national identity? and How to develop new curatorial models, which can embrace the diaspora condition and the complexity of bicultural identity?

Mads Øvlisen PhD Scholarship

with extraordinary potential
Practice-based Curating



Christina Varvia
Researcher

Project title
Biopolitical Imaging

Grant
DKK 2.0 million

Duration
3 years

Place of research
Aarhus University
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
Forensic Architecture

Abstract

The human body has a unique ability to register the power dynamics that it inhabits. This project will experiment with innovative imaging techniques in order to unpack trauma, injury, intoxication, and memory of violence as this is registered within the fabric of the human (or non-human) body. Through this work the PhD will aim to reveal the ways in which the administering of bare life by state power, not only succeeds in controlling populations, but also ends up redesigning the human species.

The project will analyse and experiment with historical and contemporary representation techniques of bodies across realms, from art and sculpture to medicine and military technology. It will do so in order to unpack complex stories of how bodies are entangled with their environments, as well as in order to investigate an active case of human rights violations in collaboration with Forensic Architecture. By bringing evidence to the realm of the visual, it will examine the way that scientific fact becomes curated and how alternative representations can challenge the traditional conceptions of the human body both as the receiver of violence as well as the perpetrating agent. The project will also benefit from a close collaboration with the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, where the resulting investigation will also be exhibited as part of Forensic Architecture's exhibition.

Mads Øvlisen Postdoc Fellowship

Art History



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Project title
The Tetzen-Lund collection of modern art

Grant
DKK 1.3 million

Duration
2 years

Place of research
National Gallery of Denmark

Abstract

The project revolves around the Danish art collector Christian Tetzen-Lund (1852-1936) who, from 1916 to 1925, build a now almost legendary collection of modern art.

The collection held works by artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, Kandinsky, Cézanne, and Van Gogh, and was to be extremely influential to the dissemination of international modernism in Denmark during and after the First World War. The project will be the first major exploration of the contents, genesis, presentation and importance of the Tetzen-Lund collection.

Mads Øvlisen Postdoc Fellowship

Art History



Christa Holm Vogelius

Project title

Jacob Riis, Documentary Photography, and the Imagetext

Grant

DKK 1.5 million

Duration

2 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

Abstract

The contribution of Jacob Riis (1849-1914) to the history of photography is indisputable: as one of the first practitioners to experiment with the uses of flash photography to capture indoor and nighttime images, the Danish-American photojournalist revolutionized the medium, bringing visibility and social reform to Manhattan's poorest immigrant districts. But there has been a striking divide between the English- and Danish-language scholarship on him, as well the image- and text-based analysis of his work. Although Riis always discursively contextualized his images, either as slide lantern projections alongside public lectures, or as reprints in books or magazines, his images and texts have rarely been closely read as a unit, and English-language scholarship has rarely taken full advantage of Riis's predominantly Danish-language archives. This monograph project bridges this scholarship, recovering a perspective on Riis as an immigrant documenting the lives of other immigrants.

Mads Øvlisen Postdoc Fellowship

Practice-based Art



Yvette Brackman

Artist

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Project title

Collections and Narratives: an exploration of the potential of a multi-focal institutional practice

Grant

DKK 1.5 million

Duration

2,5 years

Place of research

National Gallery of Denmark

Abstract

The museum creates and defines narratives of art and art histories through the processes of collecting, displaying, and archiving. I wish to research the formation of the artist's narrative in relation to museum contextualization and probe the overlapping of family history, art history, with social and political history in collaboration with The National Gallery of Denmark.

The project will focus on the aesthetic and political potential of representing narratives that have been fractured, marginalized, and otherwise silenced. How can the identification of excluded narratives articulate new insights? And how can museum structures be inclusive of more perspectives and forms of art making?

The purpose of my research in a broader cultural and socio-political context lies in the potential of a multi-focal institutional practice that encourages a multitude of cultural perspectives to nurture a better understanding of current circumstances, specific history, politics, and social relations.

Mads Øvlisen Postdoc Fellowship Art and Natural Sciences



Maja Bak Herrie
Postdoc
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Project title

Perceiving a Pre-Filtered World:
Anticipated Perception in a Data-Driven
Culture

Grant

DKK 1.3 million

Duration

2 years

Place of research

Aarhus University

Abstract

Intelligent systems have become an important part of everyday life. From search engines that help us navigate information overloads to recommendation systems that map our preferences against those of others, algorithms are designed to calculate what is “hot”, “trending”, or “most discussed”.

As we increasingly turn to algorithms rather than experts, science, or common sense to identify the relevant, right, or beautiful, algorithmic filtering becomes an affair of public relevance: how are we affected by this kind of pervasive filtering and what changes can we expect, when algorithms begin to influence still more aspects of everyday life?

Today, many artists work with such questions, not only by applying data-driven methods to their practices, but also by investigating the sensorial changes they introduce. Accordingly, this project sets out to develop new understandings of how algorithmic filtering transform the ways in which we sense and make sense of an increasingly data-driven culture.

Investigator Grant in Art History Research



Kristian Handberg
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Project title

Exhibiting across the Iron Curtain: The forgotten trail
of Danish artists exhibiting in the context of state
socialism, 1965-1985.

Grant

DKK 4.0 million

Duration

4 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

Abstract

The project will perform the first-ever investigation of the active involvement of Danish artists in the art world of socialism during the Cold War. Through a survey of exhibitions in art and design based on transfers between Denmark and state socialist countries, ca. 1965-1985, the project seeks to answer the question: How did numerous Danish artists actively exhibit across the Iron Curtain? This will lead to a new understanding of the centrality of the exhibition as an international meeting point and the configuration of Danish art in a time of new international orientations, setting up a new perspective on the formation of the global contemporary art world.

The project is located at Department of Art History, The University of Copenhagen, and is coordinated by Kristian Handberg (PI), who will research art exhibitions through a survey of cases from Denmark, GDR, Poland and Yugoslavia, informed by recent research in Exhibition Histories and global modernism. Postdoc Yulia Karpova (Russian design historian and PhD from Central European University) will focus on design exhibitions between Denmark and the Soviet Union, cultural diplomacy through exhibitions, and contribute with insights into the Russian context. A series of workshops, network meetings and research stays will bring in international experts to develop a new research network in exhibition cultures in the divided Europe.

Investigator Grant in Art History Research



Kerry Greaves
Assistant Professor

Project title

Feminist Emergency: Women Artists in Denmark, 1960-Present

Grant

DKK 4.0 million

Duration

4 years

Place of research

University of Copenhagen

Abstract

In light of today's diversified and globalized art world, where gender and identity are increasingly politicized but only selectively scrutinized in terms of feminist theory, this project considers the contribution and culturally specific conditions of women artists and feminist art in Denmark over the last sixty years.

Positing feminism as a theoretically rich analytical tool, the project seeks to answer the questions: If there are more women artists with ever more opportunities working in Denmark today, then why are they still so grossly underrepresented in museum collections, exhibitions, and art historical studies? What does it mean to be a woman artist or an artist creating feminist art in Denmark over the last sixty years and what can this tell us about the conditions of Danish culture within a globalized context? Finally, what can a study of women artists in such a seemingly liberal environment as Denmark productively lend to international feminist art theory? The project will track and analyze critically the contributions, forms of representation, visibility, activism, reception, and critique of women artists and artists working in a feminist discourse in Denmark to formulate a critical perspective on the relationship between their work and Danish and international culture.

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