

Warburg in America

Colloquium at the Getty Research Institute in cooperation with Warburg Haus, Hamburg

Thursday, November 10, 2016 - Getty Research Institute Lecture Hall



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of German art historian and cultural theorist Aby Warburg. Situated within the larger context of the Getty Research Institute's current scholar year on art and anthropology, the colloquium will commemorate this important scholar by examining his work and legacy. The lectures will focus especially on Warburg's famous travels to the southwestern United States at the turn of the century and his observation and documentation of Native American culture. His trip to the Hopi regions of Arizona and New Mexico inspired his seminal "A Lecture on Serpent Ritual," a text that served as a detailed account of Hopi architecture, life, and tribal rituals. Warburg's encounter with the Hopi culture had a lasting effect on his art historical work and contributed to the shift toward a more anthropological study of art in the 20th century. Warburg rejected the common practice of an aestheticized art history that viewed and treated images in strictly formal terms and instead perceived them as a "biologically necessary product between religion and artistic practice."

Speakers will highlight previously understudied aspects of Warburg's American travels and examine his concepts of image theory and iconology. Lectures will further consider how the application of Warburgian ideas and visions has influenced the disciplines of art history and anthropology, as well as how Warburg's legacy has narrowed the gap between these disciplines.

PROGRAM

- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Welcome Reception
- 10:30 a.m. Welcome Remarks: Thomas W. Gaehtgens, Director, Getty Research Institute
- 10:45 a.m. Session I Introduction: Susan Dackerman, Scholar, Getty Research Institute
- 11:00 a.m. Hans Belting, ZKM Karlsruhe
Migrating Images at the Persian and Ottoman Courts and the Role of Figuration
- 11:45 a.m. Uwe Fleckner, Universität Hamburg
Photography with Obstacles: Aby Warburg's Pictures of His American Journey
- 12:30 p.m. Davide Stimilli, University of Colorado, Boulder
Aby Warburg in America, Again? A Tale of Three Failures
- 1:15 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Session II Introduction: Gary Urton, Harvard University
- 2:45 p.m. Giovanna Targia, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
A Pupil of Usener in America: Aby Warburg's Travels to the Hopi Regions in the Light of His "Fragments on Expression"
- 3:30 p.m. Linda Báez-Rubí, The Warburg Institute, London
The Unfinished Project: The Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek Warburg and the Scope of Ancient American Studies
- 4:15 p.m. Claudia Swan, Northwestern University, Evanston
Meanwhile, in Vienna: The Survival of Wunderdinge
- 5:05 p.m. Panel Discussion