

---

# Estetická dimenze vizuální kultury – pozvánka na konferenci

---

## Estetická dimenze vizuální kultury – pozvánka na konferenci

Katedra estetiky FF UK je hlavním organizátorem mezinárodní konference Aesthetic Dimension of Visual Culture, která se bude konat 20 až 21. října tohoto roku.

Aesthetic Dimension of Visual Culture Event: international conference

Date: 20–22 October 2009

Place: DigiLab, Academy of Fine Arts, U Akademie 4, 170 00 Prague, Czech Republic.

International 3-day conference to be held at the [DigiLab AVU \(Digital Laboratory of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague\)](#) and organized by the Aesthetics and Film Studies Departments of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic in cooperation with DigiLab.

The contemporary situation in humanities and social sciences is often characterized by the so called “visual turn”, or the increasing emphasis of theory on the power and scope of the visual in everyday life, science, and art. Reflection of this increased influence of image, pictoriality, and visually mediated information and expression has resulted also in the formation of the notion of visual culture and the field of Visual Studies. The rise of Visual Studies involves several fundamental problems related to the status of aesthetics. Theoreticians of visual culture often suspect philosophical aesthetics of committing the sins of ahistorism and blindness towards cultural differences; according to the culturalist perspective, aesthetic experience is to be conceived as conforming to the ruling cultural ideology. Aesthetics is also often seen as irresponsive to the challenges of new media, post-conceptual art practices and the digital revolution. On the other hand, aesthetic vocabulary has far from vanished from contemporary debates on the nature and various shapes of our visual experiences, a fact especially pertinent where a dissatisfaction with vulgar value relativism prevails. The driving thought behind this conference has been to provoke a debate among scholars coming from different quarters on the aesthetic dimension of the visual. Therefore, participants from different fields – aesthetics, film studies, art history and theory, literary theory and philosophy, but also culture studies, visual and media studies, sociology, psychology and cognitive science – are invited to consider the following proposed topics organized into three thematic groups:

### 1) Debating Disciplines: Pluralist Aesthetics / Local Visual Studies

\*Visual Studies: a national or transnational project?

\*Local variants of visual studies and their potential of application: What are the possibilities of localizing visual studies?

\*Pluralist aesthetics: an oxymoron or a reform?

\*The visual and/or the aesthetic: Do visual studies allow for an aesthetics?

### 2) Defining art(s) in the 21st century

\*Recent perspectives in definitions of art

\*Art without the aesthetic? Defining conceptual and post-conceptual art practices

\*The legacy of Institutionalism; reappraisal of institutional/procedural approaches

\*Artworks or images: making sense of aesthetic canons

### 3) Appreciating the Visual

\*The fate of aesthetic autonomy after the visual turn

\*How has the digital revolution changed our appreciation of the image?

\*Aesthetic blindness: individual or social disease?

\*Aesthetic alienation or aesthetic distance? Aesthetic experience in the age of spectacles

\*Perception and/or sensation: contemporary perspectives on phenomenology of the aesthetic visual experience

Invited are abstracts of no more than 200 words (in English) on these or broadly related topics. Speakers will receive 30 minutes for presentation. We also invite PhD students to present their work. PhD student submissions should be clearly marked as such.

Selected papers will be published in conference proceedings.

The conference fee is 10 Euro, students are exempt from this fee.