

THE POWER OF ART

AESTHETICS AND
POLITICS IN THE
CONTEMPORARY
WORLD

The New School
for Social Research
Department of Liberal Studies
February 6-7, 2025

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Speakers:

Giulia Bernard (University of Padova)
Francesco Campana (University of Padova/NSSR)
Laura Dequal (University of Padova)
Kristin Gjesdal (Temple University)
Lydia Goehr (Columbia University)
Luca Illetterati (University of Padova)
Paul Kottman (The New School for Social Research)
Sohl Lee (Stony Brook University)
Yi-Ping Ong (Johns Hopkins University)
Sandra Shapshay (Hunter College/CUNY Graduate Center)



The New School For Social Research
Department of Liberal Studies



University of Padova
Departmente of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and
Applied Psychology



hegelpd
Classical German Philosophy. University of Padova
Research Group



Funded by
the European Union

This workshop has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** grant agreement No **101066460** (Project: **PolArt - Political Art: Understanding the Function of Art in the Contemporary Social Space Through a New Interpretation of Classical German Philosophy** PI: Francesco Campana, S: Gabriele Tomasi)

The Power of Art Aesthetics and Politics in the Contemporary World

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February 6, Starr Foundation Hall

9.30 Reception

10.15-10.30 Francesco Campana, Paul
Kottman, Greetings and Introduction

Chair: Paul Kottman

10.30-11.45 **Giulia Bernard**, *Fielding the
Political: Participation and Critique in
Art and Philosophy*

11.45-1.00 **Kristin Gjesdal**, *Germaine de
Staël on Literature and Politics*

1.00 Lunch

Chair: Laura Dequal

2.30-3.45 **Yi-Ping Ong**, *The Hum of the
Own: Kierkegaard, Knausgaard, and
Nelson on Existence in the Present Age*

4.00-5.15 **Francesco Campana**, *Art on
the barricades (or, the end of art, but
this time actually conceived as the
possibility of its death)*

7.00 Dinner

February 7, Wolff Conference Room

Chair: Giulia Bernard

10.00-11.15 **Sandra Shapshay**,
*Monuments: Iconoclasm & Idolatry in
America*

11.15-12.30 **Luca Illetterati**, *What does a
work of art deal with? The ambiguity of
communication*

12.30 Lunch

Chair: Francesco Campana

2.00-3.15 **Lydia Goehr**, *From uproar to
outrage: on art, noise, and political
bluster*

3.15-4.30 **Sohl Lee**, *Art for
Decolonization and Democracy: The
Minjung Art Movement in South Korea*

4.30-4.45 Coffee Break

4.45-6.00 **Laura Dequal**, *On the Political
Role of Curatorship in Contemporary
Art*

6.00 Conclusion

6.30 Aperitif

What does it mean for art to be political today? In what ways can an artwork be considered political in our contemporary and global context? What are the possible impacts of politics on art, and how might art affect politics? The workshop aims to explore art's potential to effect political change in contemporary society. From engaged art to so-called activism, from participatory art practices to public art experiments, art increasingly addresses audiences by documenting, emphasizing, and denouncing political issues. There is a growing focus in art on collective transformation, challenging established norms and questioning the notion of a unified global art or literature while advocating for a broader range of perspectives.

The workshop will investigate and discuss various aspects of this relationship today, focusing on different artistic forms and theoretical perspectives, while examining the role that philosophy can play within it.

Organization: Francesco Campana, Paul Kottman

Scientific Committee:
Francesco Campana
Paul Kottman
Gabriele Tomasi