

Imagineering violence

A conference on the spectacle of violence in the early modern period

Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, 21-23 March 2019

Nes 45, 1012 KD Amsterdam

(NL)

Hoe verbeeld je geweld? Hoe documenteer je als kunstenaar de gewelddadigheid van je eigen tijd? Welk ethisch standpunt neem je in? Wanneer wordt de kijker een voyeur? Wanneer wordt geweld spektakel? Kan geweld mooi zijn? Is het jouw plicht als kunstenaar om het geweld uit jouw tijd te documenteren? Die vragen doorkruisen de moderne kunst, van de oorlogstaferelen van Goya over het raciale geweld in *Five Car Stud* van Edward en Nancy Kienholz tot de miniaturen in *Fucking hell* van Jack & Dinos Chapman, maar ze zijn niet nieuw. Vooral de vroegmoderne periode kende een ware explosie van afbeeldingen van pijn, lijden en geweld, in prenten, schilderijen, op theaterpodia en in de publieke ruimte. Het publiek gaf zijn ogen de kost: belegeringen, executies, martelaars. Geweld fascineerde, maar riep tegelijk ingewikkelde vragen op. Dat was toen zo, en dat is nu niet anders.

Wetenschappers en kunstenaars duiken samen de vroegmoderne periode in, op zoek naar nieuwe antwoorden op de vragen die we ons vandaag stellen, via lezingen, kunstenaarspresentaties en gesprekken. Samen onderzoeken ze hoe kunstenaars in de Nederlanden tussen pakweg de 16de en de 18de eeuw omgingen met de horror van hun tijd en stellen ze zich de vraag of die antwoorden nog wel een plek hebben in onze spektakelmaatschappij vandaag.

Met artistieke bijdragen Stef Lernous van Abattoir Fermé, Simon Pummell, Doina Kraal, Jan Rosseel, Enkidu Khaled, e.a. en lezingen van internationaal gerenommeerde cultuurhistorici als Jonathan Davis, Katie Hornstein en Benjamin Schmidt.

(EN)

The early modern period witnessed a true explosion of images on pain, suffering and violence across painting, print, theater, and public space. The public had plenty to choose from: sieges, executions, massacres. Violence fascinated the early modern spectator, yet it simultaneously conjured up numerous questions, some of which are not unlike those posed today.

How can violence be represented and imagined? How can an artist document the violence of the times? What about the numerous ethical implications? When does a spectator become a voyeur? When does violence turn into spectacle? Can violence be aestheticized? Does an artist have a duty to document contemporary violence? These questions saturate modern art, from the horrors of War in Goya to the racial violence in Edward and Nancy Kienholz's 'Five Car Stud'.

With artistic contributions by Stef Lernous of Abattoir Fermé, Simon Pummell, Doina Kraal, Jan Rosseel, Enkidu Khaled, e.a. and lectures by internationally acclaimed cultural historians Jonathan Davis, Katie Hornstein en Benjamin Schmidt.

Met de steun van / With the support of NWO en / and FWO.

Org.: iTEMP Research en / and Brakke Grond Group in samenwerking met / in collaboration with. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Universiteit Leiden, Universiteit Gent, Université Libre de Bruxelles en / and Huizinga-instituut.

Registration for the Evening program at Brakke Grond [here](#).

Registration for the conference on 21 March (afternoon) and 22 March: itempvioence@gmail.com

21 March 2019

14.00 - 14.30 Registration and welcome

14.30 - 15.15 Imagineering violence - Lecture performance of the ITEMP team

15.15 - 15.45 Questions

15.45 - 16.00 break

16.00 - 16.45 Public lecture by Benjamin Schmidt: (University of Washington): Icons and Iconoclasm, Art and Violence: On the Performance of Apostasy in Tokugawa Japan

16.45 - 17.15 Questions

17.15 - 19.00 Reception

18:00 - 19:30 Working Method by Enkidu Khaled (maximum capacity of 30 participants). Please register via Brakke Grond Website (tickets online from 6 March 2019).

20.00 - 22.10 [Evening program](#)

Introduction by Frans-Willem Korsten: A very short history of violence in 15 and a half images (10')

Video projection and presentation Simon Pummell (25')

Presentation and video by Jan Rosseel (15')

Round table "The aesthetics of violence" with Doina Kraal, Simon Pummell, Jan Rosseel (moderated by Karel Vanhaesebrouck) (40')

Round table "The pornography of violence" with Sjarrel, Enkidu Khaled (moderated by Karel Vanhaesebrouck) (40')

Permanent: Tableaux by Stef Lernous, Rarekiek by Doing Kraal, luisterpaal Sjarrel & Maartje Van Duijn

22 March 2019

09.00 - 09.30 Welcome

09.30 - 09.50 Kevin Dekoster (University of Gent): Explaining homicide. Medico-legal-expertise and the representation of violence in early modern criminal inquiries.

09.50 - 10.10 Klaas Tindemans (RITCS): Legal Discourse and Violent Imagery: Shakespearean Comedy as a Discursive Surrogate.

10.10 - 10.40 Discussion (moderated by Frans-Willem Korsten)

10.40 - 10.50 Coffee break

10.50 - 11.10 Giuseppe Sciarrotta & Silvana Foscari (University of Salerno): The show of violence on the rebel and the show of violence by the rebel in the Kingdom of Naples in the seventeenth century.

11.10 - 11.30 Yannice De Bruyn (UGent & VUB): Retracing the theatre: representations of violence as political message or crowd-pleaser? The case of Jan Vos' tableaux vivants to the *Siege and Relief of Leyden* as performed in the Amsterdam Theater in 1660.

11.30 - 12.00 Discussion (moderated by Kornee Van der Haven)

12.00 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 14.30 Keynote Helmer Helmers (University of Amsterdam): Furies, Massacres and Executions. Violence and the Making of the Dutch Republic, 1560-1689.

14.30 - 14.50 Michel van Duijnen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam): Miracles and mayhem: re-imagining siege warfare in late seventeenth-century Dutch print culture.

14.50 - 15.10 Jonathan Davies (University of Warwick) Representations of violence in the works of Camillo Baldi (1560-1637).

15.10 - 15.30 Discussion (moderated by Inger Leemans)

15.30 - 15.40 Coffee break

15.40 - 16.00 Katie Hornstein (Dartmouth College): Between Metaphor and Matter: Spectacles of Leonine Violence in Early Modern Europe.

16.00 - 16.20 Vincent Robert-Nicoud: Inventing the Notion of 'Massacre' in the French Wars of Religion.

16.20 - 16.40 Discussion (moderated by Karel Vanhaesebrouck)

16.40 - 17.00 Concluding remarks

Permanent: Tableaux by Stef Lernous, Rarekiek by Doina Kraal, luisterpaal Maartje Van Duijn

23 March 2019

10:00 - 12:30 [PhD seminar](#) (fully booked) with Benjamin Schmidt, Inger Leemans, Karel Vanhaesebrouck, Frans-Willem Korsten, Kornee Van der Haven, in collaboration with Huizinga-Instituut.

During the masterclass, participants will have the chance to relate their own research to the broader issue of the relationship between visuals and violence. Using the chapter on print culture and violence from Schmidt's latest work, *Inventing Exoticism*, participants are invited to reflect on the ways in which early modern media grappled with the representation of violence, and how they positioned such representations in terms of geography, as well as religious and political identities.

(in Ghent)

**BAROQUE BRUTALITIES:
IMAGINING VIOLENCE IN ART (17th CENTURY & TODAY)**

Exhibition

**VANDENHOVE Centre for Architecture and Arts, Rozier 1, Ghent
Thursday & Friday 28 & 29 March, 2-6 PM and Saturday 30 March, 10 AM – 5 PM.**

The exhibition shows 17th-century prints from the UGent University Library and works by Simon Pummell (video), Doina Kraal (peep-show box) and Stef Lernous (visual work).

The early modern period witnessed a true explosion of images on pain, suffering and violence across painting, print, theater, and public space. The public had plenty to choose from: sieges, executions, massacres. Violence fascinated the early modern spectator, yet it simultaneously conjured up numerous questions, some of which are not unlike those posed today.

How can violence be represented and imagined? How can an artist document the violence of the times? What about the numerous ethical implications? When does a spectator become a voyeur? When does violence turn into spectacle? Can violence be aestheticized? Does an artist have a duty to document contemporary violence? These questions saturate modern art, from the horrors of War in Goya to the racial violence in Edward and Nancy Kienholz's 'Five Car Stud'.

Baroque Brutalities not only shows how violence is represented in works of art from about 1650, but it also deals with the above mentioned social, cultural and ethical questions concerning the representation of (extreme) violence today and in the Baroque era.

This exhibition is an initiative of the Dutch-Belgian research group ITEMP: *Imagineering Violence* – see: <https://itempvioence.wordpress.com>

(in Ghent)

Specialist Course

Representations of Violence and the Eye of the Beholder (1600-today)

Ghent, 28-29 March 2019

In the framework of the iTemp-project Kornee van der Haven, Karel Vanhaesebrouck and Yannice De Bruyn organize a specialist course: *Representations of Violence and the Eye of the Beholder (1600-today)*. This specialist course will take place on 28-29 March 2019 at the University of Ghent and is enabled by the UGent Doctoral Schools. The course will deal with similar questions that drive the ITEMP conference in Amsterdam on 21 and 22 March 2019. We will focus on how violence is represented in works of art from 1600 onwards; what it means to look at violence; and social, cultural and ethical questions concerning the representation of (extreme) violence today and during various historical periods.

The course is intended for PhD students at both academic and artistic institutions, and artists. It intends to create an intense dialogue between researchers and artists, and focuses on a close interaction with art works from today and historic periods alike. Parallel to the specialist course, an exhibition will be shown in the Vandenhove Paviljoen in Ghent. A visit to the exhibition and dialogue with some of the participating artists is part of the specialist course.

The course is fully booked. You can find all information [here](#).