



What is the potential of interpretation in the visual field and are there limits? The current proliferation of images has led to worries about the power of the visual, but not necessarily to innovative approaches. While the tendency of art history to rely on the subject in its explanatory modes (in particular the artist as subject) has long reached an impasse, the image continues to be a site of self-affirmation rather than of critical and creative engagement. Even recent attempts to endow the image with a more active role, including the productive notion of the self-aware image, have brought with them problems of agency. How can we shift the discussion without turning the image itself into a subject?

26th
OCTOBER
2012

Conference organised by Mechthild Fend, Maria Loh and Rose Marie San Juan
UCL History of Art Department

Programme

10.00 Introduction

10.15 Session One

Briony Fer

Photophilia: light and the image

Rose Marie San Juan

Dying not to see

11.45 Coffee/Tea

12.00 Session Two

Alexander Nemerov

Swimming: JFK, Thomas Eakins, and November 22, 1963

Maria Loh

The Big Sleep

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Session Three

Pasi Valiaho

What Can a Drone See? Image, Imagination, Critique

Mechthild Fend

Conflictual Agencies: 'Portrait d'une négresse, par une femme'

Hanneke Grootenboer

The Pensive Image

16.00 Coffee/Tea

16.30 Session Four

Victor I. Stoichita

'As if he were still alive...'. Zurbaran's 'living' Saint Francis

Carol Mavor

For Rineke Dijkstra, a Tiergarten is Not a Tear Garden

This conference is free and open to all.

Venue: Old Refectory, Wilkins Building, University College London, Gower Street.
London WC1E 6BT.