

“Disassembled Images” : Contemporary Art After Allan Sekula

This international scientific conference takes the US artist, theoretician, critic, teacher and poet Allan Sekula’s *Ship of Fools / The Dockers’ Museum* (2010–2013) as its point of departure. At the very end of his life Sekula produced this unfinished, multifaceted and variably installable work of art, which contains ca. 1250 objects. Focusing on dock workers and seafarers, Sekula’s *Ship of Fools / The Dockers’ Museum* paid tribute to all the joined, past efforts of human labor now irretrievably lost in history – a struggle he identified as: “Sisyphean.” In doing so, Sekula wished to provide a message of hope: his last work contributes to imagining possible forms of solidarity in a globalized economy confronted evermore with its own limitations. The conference’s participants will discuss both Sekula’s oeuvre and works by other contemporary artists whose approach dialogues with his seminal legacy.

“Disassembled Images”: Contemporary Art After Allan Sekula is organized by the Lieven Gevaert Research Centre for Photography, Art, and Visual Culture (KU Leuven– Université catholique de Louvain) and M HKA, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen. It was made possible through the generous support of the KU Leuven Research Fund, the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), FNRS, INCAL/CERTA UCL, the Faculty of Arts, OJO and YouReCa KU Leuven, the Allan Sekula Studio, the Clark Art Institute, and M HKA.



Thematic Sessions
Collecting Folly
Maritime Failures & Imaginaries
Critical Realism in Dialogue



**Thursday March 2
COLLECTING FOLLY**

Afternoon Chair:
Nav Haq (M HKA)

Evening Chair:
Nicola Setari (LUCA School of Arts)

**Bart De Baere (M HKA)
and Hilde Van Gelder (KU Leuven)**
Presentation of the general
theme of the conference and
short introduction

Carles Guerra
(Fundació Antoni Tàpies/Pompeu Fabra
University)
Mad Geography:
**Space Games in Allan Sekula's
Photographic Practice**

Edwin Carels (KASK/U Gent/M HKA)
Reassembling Vrielynck

**Bart De Baere (M HKA)
& Anja Isabel Schneider**
(M HKA/KU Leuven)
**Allan Sekula: the Double Helix
of an Activist Stance and of
Curating
A Recitative**

Ronnie Close
(The American University, Cairo)
**Parallax Error: Paradigms of
Photographic Image Censorship
in Egypt**

Stefanie Diekmann
(Hildesheim University)
**The Stuff in the Studio:
on Chris Larson's "Land speed
record"**

W.J.T. Mitchell (University of Chicago)
**Keynote address: Planetary
Madness: Allan Sekula's *Ship of
Fools***

Barbara Baert (KU Leuven)
Response and discussion

**Friday March 3
MARITIME FAILURES
& IMAGINARIES**

**Morning Chair: Katarzyna
Ruchel-Stockmans (VUB)**

Afternoon Chair:
Liesbeth Decan (LUCA School of Arts)

Marco Poloni (artist)
Keynote Lecture Performance:
The Sea Rejected Me

Alexander Streitberger
(Université catholique de Louvain)
Response and discussion

Clara Masnatta (ICI Berlin)
**Lois Patiño's "Coast of Death"
(2013) and "Leviathan" (2012)
by Véréna Paravel and Lucien
Taylor as Amphibious Cinema**

Anthony Abiragi
(University of Colorado, Boulder)
**Photography in an Age of
Asymmetry**

Jeroen Verbeeck (KU Leuven)
**Le Docker Noir: Some Notes on
Things Left Unsaid in the Work of
Allan Sekula**

Jonathan Stafford
(Nottingham Trent University)
**Representing Capital as Flow:
The Ship as Logistical Image
and Maritime Catastrophe**

Stephanie Schwartz
(University College London)
The Face of Protest

Sally Stein (UC Irvine)
**Some Maritime Reflections from
the Notebooks of Allan Sekula**

Kristen Oehlich (The Clark Art Institute)
Reading Allan Sekula's Library

**Roundtable: Disclosing Allan
Sekula's Archive and Library:
Discussion between Sally Stein
(UC Irvine), Kristen Oehlich (The Clark
Art Institute) and Ina Steiner (Allan
Sekula Studio), moderated by Hilde
Van Gelder (KU Leuven)**

**Saturday March 4
CRITICAL REALISM
IN DIALOGUE**

Chair: Stefanie Diekmann
(Hildesheim University)

Benjamin Young (UC Berkeley/NYU)
**"Decolonize This Place": Realism
and Humanism in Photography of
Israel-Palestine**

Noit Banai (University of Vienna)
**Against Populism: Realism
between Direct Democracy and
Decolonization**

Alexander Streitberger
(Université catholique de Louvain)
**Victor Burgin. Towards a Psychological
Realism**

Steve Edwards
(Birkbeck, University of London)
and Gail Day (University of Leeds)
**Differential Time and Aesthetic
Form: Uneven and Combined
Capitalism in the Work of Allan
Sekula**

Closing of the Conference
by Hilde Van Gelder (KU Leuven)



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