



**19 – 20 MAY 2023**

**UNFINISHED  
EMPIRE?  
VISUAL ARTS  
AND ARCHITECTURE  
IN POST-IMPERIAL  
CONTEXTS,  
1900–2022**

Independence from empires has been rightly celebrated as a moment of liberation and a new beginning. Yet, in post-independence states, it has often proven difficult to evade the long shadow of imperial and colonial rule. This conference examines this phenomenon in relation to the visual arts, design and architecture. With examples from across the globe, it considers how individuals and institutions dealt with the legacy of imperialism and colonialism.

**THE MUSEUM  
OF DECORATIVE ARTS,  
17. LISTOPADU 2, PRAGUE**

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# UNFINISHED EMPIRE? VISUAL ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE IN POST-IMPERIAL CONTEXTS, 1900–2022

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ARTS, 17. LISTOPADU 2, PRAGUE  
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19 MAY /  
9.30–10.00 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

10.00–11.15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION  
Radim Vondráček (UPM, Praha)  
& Matthew Rampley (Masaryk University, Brno)

KEYNOTE LECTURE  
From An Imperial to a National Genre:  
The Changing Landscape of Calcutta's Colonial  
and Post-Colonial Statuary, 1920s–1960s  
Prof. Tapati Guha Thakurta (Centre for  
Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata)

11.15–11.45 COFFEE

11.45–13.15 PANEL 1 / INSTITUTIONS

Restitution Debates Following the Provisions  
of the Treaty of Riga and the Shaping of Polish  
and Soviet Memory Institutions (1921–1937)  
Ewa Manikowska (Institute of Art,  
Polish Academy of Sciences)

Imperial Histories and Conditions in  
the Russian Compound – the new site of  
Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem  
Sigal Barnir (Bezalel Academy of Art and Design)

Decolonizing Asian Art History:  
A South Asian Perspective  
Sonal (Shivaji College, University of Delhi)

13.15–14.00 LUNCH

14.00–15.30 PANEL 2 / MEMORIES AND  
POSTMEMORIES IN THE PRESENT

Touching the Wound as an Act of Unmasking  
Teresa Pinheiro (Catholic University  
of Portugal, Lisbon)

Alpine Butterwort and Sosnowsky's  
Hogweed: Negotiating Botanical  
Imperialism in Contemporary Latvian Art  
Jana Kukaine (Riga Stradins University)

'A presence, an absence, a fictitious territory':  
Postmemories of Smyrna in Etel Adnan's  
*Family Memoirs* (2015) and Joana Hadjithomas  
& Khalil Joreige's *Ismyrna* (2016)  
Elif Karakaya (University of Rochester, NY)

15.30–16.00 TEA

16.00–17.30 PANEL 3 / MONUMENTS

The Monument of Karel Kopal  
in Znojmo: In the Whirlwind of History  
Jan Galeta & Tomáš Valeš (Masaryk University Brno)

Casting Empires: The Dynastic  
Bronze Urn of Hué in Paris  
William Ma (Louisiana State University)

Reviving Art, Renewing Empire: The Russian  
Church of Holy Maria Magdalena in Darmstadt  
Louise Hardiman (Independent Scholar)

20 MAY /  
9.30–11.00 PANEL 4 / PRIVATE AND PUBLIC

'For True Elegance...' The Kingsway Stores  
at the Ends of Empire in West Africa  
Ewan Harrison (University of Manchester)

Memory in Uzhhorod Interwar Architecture:  
The State vs. Private Developers  
Lina Degtyaryova (Uzhhorod National University)

The Ministry of Public Works: Learning  
Lessons from the Contested Past  
Vendula Hnídková (Institute of Art History, Prague)

11.00–11.30 COFFEE

11.30–13.00 PANEL 5 / EXHIBITIONS OF EMPIRE

Imperial Fugue: Echoes of the Qing Empire  
at the Chicago World's Fair, 1933  
Daniel M. Greenberg (University of Minnesota)

Reconciling Generations' Artistic and Political  
Views in the Shadow of War. International  
Exhibition of Women Artists in New York in 1939  
Anna Kopócsy (Péter Pázmány Catholic University)

Colonial Entanglements, Decolonial  
Perspectives: a Case Study of the National  
Ethnographic Museum in Warsaw  
Magdalena Wróblewska (Warsaw University)

13.00–14.00 LUNCH

14.00–15.00 PANEL 6 / PAINTING AND IMPERIAL PRACTICES

Oil Painting as Imperial Praxis:  
The Case of Jiang Feng and Chinese Art  
Yi Gu (University of Toronto, Scarborough)

Mongolian Zurag Painting  
as Post-Imperial Modernity  
Christianna Bonin (American University of Sharjah)

15.00–15.30 TEA

15.30–17.00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

