

Crisis and Form. Politicizations of Art

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

10.00 – 10.30

Welcoming Remarks

Prof. Dr. Christian Grüny, Prof. Dr. Mirjam Schaub

Thematic Focus I: Form as an Expanded Concept

10.30 – 11.15

Art and the Politics of Social Form

Prof. Dr. Peter Osborne (Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy, Kingston University London)

11.15 – 11.45

Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.30

The Fear of Form. How Form became Political

Prof. Dr. Sylvia Sasse (University of Zurich)

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch Break

14.00 – 14.45

Concavity and the Lost Center of Sculpture

Dr. Ruth Ezra (University of St. Andrews)

14.45 – 15.30

Native Americans in Paris: A Political Mania of the 1960s and 1970s

Dr. Danilo Scholz (Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen)

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee Break

16.00 – 16.45

The Logic of Disruption and its Odds

Prof. Dr. Mirjam Schaub (University of Applied Science, Hamburg)

17.00

Apéro

18.30

Optional evening event organized by the KWI

Truth and Judgement at the Limits of Liberalism

Prof. Dr. Dorit Geva (University of Vienna)

„Wenn und Aber – Philosophische Fragen zur Zeit“

Lecture and Discussion, moderated by Mona Leinung

DAY 2, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

Thematic Focus II: Digital Media Ecologies and Political Art

- 10.00 - 10.45 *"Acquiring Taste": AI and the Work of Aesthetic Judgment*
Prof. Dr. Markus Rautzenberg (Folkwang University of the Arts)
- 10.45 – 11.30 *Protocol Art: Pattern Formation and Aesthetic Deformation in Network States*
Dr. Johannes Bennke (Filmuniversity Babelsberg Konrad Wolf)
- 11.30 – 12.00 *Coffee Break*

Thematic Focus III: Between Art and the Crisis of Democracy

- 12.00 – 12.45 *Crisis without Critique*
Prof. Dr. Felix Heidenreich (University of Stuttgart)
- 12.45 – 13.30 *Mimesis and Reenactment. On the Crisis-ridden Formation of Political Art*
Prof. Dr. Maria Muhle (Academy of Fine Arts Munich)
- 13.30 – 15.00 *Lunch Break*
- 15.00 – 15.45 *Curating Relevance*
Hans Christ & Iris Dressler (Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart)
- 15.45 – 16.30 *Performing Crisis: Aesthetics of Masculinity*
Prof. Dr. Christian Grüny (University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart)
- 18.00 **Conference Dinner**

DAY 3, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

Thematic Focus IV: Perspectives of Alternative Aesthetic Models

- 09.30 – 10.15 *Generative AI and the Aesthetics of Digital Fascism*
Prof. Dr. Roland Meyer (University of Zurich / Zurich University of the Arts)
- 10.15 – 11.00 *Survivalism: Speculative Tech and Future Horizons*
Dr. Ella Klik (Bar-Ilan University)
- 11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee Break*
- 11.30 – 12.15 *Inclining Forms: Reimagining Philosophy's Self-Images*
Dr. Hannah Wallenfels (diffrakt, Centre for Theoretical Periphery)
- 12.15 – 13.00 *Open Discussion & Final Remarks*
Dr. Johannes Bennke, Prof. Dr. Markus Rautzenberg
- 13.00 **Departure**

Convenors

Dr. Johannes Bennke

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