

Crisis and Form. Politicizations of Art

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

10.00 – 10.30 *Welcoming Remarks*
Prof. Dr. Julika Griem, 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

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