

Collegium historiae artium

Hlavní referující

Spyros Papapetros (Princeton University)

Téma

World Ornament: Architectural Histories and Anthropological Theories of Adornment on a Global Scale

From Gottfried Semper's essay on the cosmological character of bodily adornment (1856) to Aby Warburg's ethnographic research on pottery ornamentation in North-American Pueblos (1895-6), late nineteenth-century histories of art and architecture appear increasingly preoccupied with a series of ostensibly marginal artifacts: ornaments, bodily accessories, and household implements. This peripheral form of art historical vision informs a series of contemporary texts by German anthropologists and natural historians, who employ Semper's cosmological categories of ornamentation to describe decorative artifacts from Non-Western cultures. The lecture will focus on the theorization of bodily adornment by Emil Selenka, renowned evolutionist and anthropologist and his wife Lenore Selenka, prominent feminist, pacifist, zoologist, and amateur anthropologist, who collected a large quantity of ethnographic material on bodily ornament and clothing during their travels to the German colonies of South-East Asia. How do such histories of ornamental development interplay with evolutionist theories of "becoming and perishing" among animal species as well as declining socio-political institutions? And how are the global circulation of bodily adornments and the phenomenal expansion of their historiographies related to the immanent eclipse of ornamentation in Western modernist practice?

Kdy

**Středa 8. června 2016,
15.30**

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Kde

**ÚDU AV ČR, Husova 4, Praha 1,
1. patro, přednášková místnost**