Reconstructing East German Culture:
25 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Monday 7:30-9:00 pm
Design Auditorium

Opening Remarks

I. East German Art in the Early Years

Barbara McCloskey, University of Pittsburgh
“A Useable Past for East German Socialist Realism?”

Heather Mathews, Pacific Lutheran University
"Flucht vor der sozialistischen Wirklichkeit: Art & Reality in the Late 1950s"

Katharina Heider, Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg
"From Arts and Crafts to Industrial Design – The Transformation of the Art School Burg Gablenstein and the Consequences for Painting in Halle”

II. Socialist Realism and Modern Art in East Germany

Jérôme Bazin, University of Paris-Est Créteil
“Visual Simplicity and Its Problems: Modest Art from the GDR”

Jessica Backus, Hunter College
“’Real Modern Art’ – Werner Tübke and the Question of Modernism in East Germany”

III. Cultural Politics in East Germany

Sigrid Hofer, Philipps-Universität Marburg
“The Historization of the Modern: Museum Politics Respond to Cultural Political Directives in the GDR”

Silke Wagner, Kunstfonds, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
“Commissions Before the Central German Art Exhibitions of the GDR”

Kristine Nielsen, Illinois Wesleyan University
“Medium Matters: Berlin’s 750th Anniversary”

Film Screening – GOYA
Director: Konrad Wolf, 1971 (134 minutes)
Introduced by Dr. Seán Allan, University of Warwick

IV. Women Artists & Performance Art in East Germany

Angelika Richter, Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig
“Defying the Constraints of Representation: Performing Women Artists in East Germany”

Susanne Altmann, Hochschule für bildende Kunst Dresden
“Occupy Erfurt! A Pioneering Women Artists’ Collective in the East German Province Fights the Restrictions of Communism”

April Eisman, Iowa State University
“Challenging the State Artist-Dissident Divide: Angela Hampel as Painter & Installation Artist”

V. East German Art Today

Sara Blaylock, University of California, Santa Cruz
“The Case of Cornelia Schleime: Reading Signs of Artist Agency in Stasi Files”

Gisela Schirmer, independent scholar
“The Controversy Around Willi Sitte – Will It Ever End?”

Frank Zollner, Leipzig Universität
“Tübke as a Communist Artist: What’s Wrong with Painting the History of the Working Class?”

The Future of the Study of East German Art
Roundtable Discussion

September 15-17, 2014
Iowa State University

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Organized by April A. Eisman (eismana@iastate.edu)