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CIHA as the Object of Art History

### Contact

E-Mail: [info@ciha2012.de](mailto:info@ciha2012.de)

Telefax: 0049-(0)911-1331 210

Postal address: CIHA 2012  
c/o Germanisches Nationalmuseum  
Kornmarkt 1  
D-90402 Nürnberg  
Deutschland

If you have questions, please contact the Administration Office of the CIHA 2012 in Nuremberg.

33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art CIHA 2012 is supported by



The Getty Foundation



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Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für  
Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst



## CIHA 2012 in Nuremberg

33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the International Committee  
of the History of Art, July 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2012



## The Challenge of the Object

*Die Herausforderung des Objekts*



GERMANISCHES  
NATIONAL  
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# The Challenge of the Object

## *Die Herausforderung des Objekts*

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg is host to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art (CIHA 2012) in Nuremberg. It is the first time since 1873 that a museum has taken on this task. The theme of the congress is "The Challenge of the Object / Die Herausforderung des Objekts". The object and how it is perceived in art history is a question that is currently very highly charged, the result of increasing globalization and digitalization. Art and cultural historians from all over the world, from a vast cross-section of disciplines and fields of professional interest, are called upon to discuss together **the role and the theory of the object** in art history.

The focus of the congress is the notion of the object as **the material subject of research**, but also **the subject of the discipline** in a broader sense. The approach to the concrete object, whether it be a building, a painting, a sculpture, a crafted artifact, whether a ritual object, a collected piece or an item of daily use, is the point of departure and the yardstick for art historical research.



The object in its specific materiality, its historical context, its history and theory will be the central issue of the conference and its sections. The various methods influencing former and future approaches to the object will also be debated. Diverging ways of treating and evaluating objects as carriers of cultural content will be addressed from a **global perspective**.



Particular significance is accorded the question as to the "**original**" material object in the light of ephemeral art forms and against the backdrop of increasing digitalization. How do these change our perception of the object and the treatment of the "original"? Is it still possible to make the object tangible? The CIHA 2012 congress wishes to encourage reflection on the categories and limitations of art history. Thus the individual sections do not delineate boundaries between genres and disciplines; instead they are there to merge together contributions from different cultural spheres and fields of discourse.

Art history has been confronted with the task of **globalization**. Art historians concerned with Islamic, African, Asian or Central and South American art now rarely find themselves in contact with the "classical" art historians, who are oriented towards "Western" art. We would expressly like to encourage art and cultural historians from non-European research areas to join us in this work.

We would like to see **presentations** that, going beyond the individual object, propose fundamental, new approaches to the theoretical treatment of the issue of the "object", methods of art history as well as approaches with a global perspective.

**Call for Papers requested by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 deadline**

A special program for **postgraduates** will be offered under the motto "Get in Touch – Objects, Places, People". It consists of a poster section with short presentations of prize-winning posters and the excursion program "Tours and Talks". Applications for posters and postgraduate grants may be made as of the summer of 2011. All information can be found under **[www.ciha2012.de/en/call-for-papers](http://www.ciha2012.de/en/call-for-papers)**.

Those not holding papers may also **register as participants** in the congress as of November 2011; please use the homepage **[www.ciha.2012.de](http://www.ciha.2012.de)** for this.

We would be very pleased to welcome you in Nuremberg to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art (CIHA) in July 2012.

*Jaynie Anderson (CIHA), Melbourne  
Georg Satzinger (VDK), Bonn  
G. Ulrich Grossmann (GNM), Nuremberg*



Detailed information on the congress and its sections, the application forms (Call for Papers) and the possibility of grants can be found on the homepage **[www.ciha2012.de](http://www.ciha2012.de)**.