

PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGINATION

A CLARK COLLOQUIUM

APRIL 21–22, 2017

PROGRAM

Photography and Imagination will investigate the two terms in their relationship to one another. The term “imagination” potentially extends over a wide range. Empiricist concepts of vision usually situate imagination centrally to vision. There is no vision without the imaginative ability to evoke general ideas and past experience. Visual imagination is also frequently construed as an alternative vision, internal rather than external, an inventiveness of the mind that allows it to transcend external vision, guide the artist’s creation, and even fuel technological breakthroughs. But imagination can also be conceived as a demon, which, whether emerging from within or invading from without, leads vision dangerously astray. At the same time, as the discourse of photography has become more unstable, moving from one of representation, centering on photographic images, to one of performativity, centering on photographic practices, the relation between photography and “imagination” has become correspondingly ambiguous. The papers discussed here address this relationship from different assumptions about these two terms, and about their relationship to one another.

Thursday, April 20

6:30 PM WELCOME GATHERING
THE WILLIAMS INN

Please join us for drinks and hors d’oeuvres at the Williams Inn, where participants will be staying (1090 Main Street, 413-458-9371).

Friday, April 21

The Clark is a ten-minute walk from the Inn: cross the rotary and walk away from the hotel down South Street. The Clark is on the right-hand side of the street. Walk past the first entrance with the large sign indicating the main entrance and turn right into the second driveway. You will see a large granite building, which is the Manton Research Center. Once inside, people will be on hand to guide you to the elevators to the Upper Level. Once you exit the elevator, walk directly forward. You will find the Scholars’ Seminar Room to the left of the office doors in front of you.

The colloquium will take place in the Scholars' Seminar Room in the Manton Research Center. Breakfast is available at the Clark each day of the colloquium around 9:00 AM. Lunches will take place in the Clark Penthouse, the top floor of Manton.

9:30 AM WELCOMING REMARKS

Christopher Heuer, Acting Director, Research and Academic Program
MANTON RESEARCH CENTER, SCHOLARS' SEMINAR ROOM

9:45 AM INTRODUCTION: PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGINATION

Margaret Olin, Yale University
Amos Morris-Reich, University of Haifa

10:00 AM DISCUSSION

Steffen Siegel, "Cat in a window? A closer look on how people try to have a closer look" (Discussion leader: Amos Morris-Reich)

Britta Lange, "Photographic Imaginations of Authorship: Karl May's picture cards from 1896," (Discussion leader: Shawn Michelle Smith)

11:30 AM BREAK

11:45 AM DISCUSSION

Vered Maimon, "The Traffic in Photographs, Reconsidered: Affective Archives and the Politicization of Vernacular Photography" (Discussion leader: Blake Stimson)

12:30 PM LUNCH

MANTON RESEARCH CENTER, PENTHOUSE

2:30 PM DISCUSSION

Jung Joon Lee, "Unofficial: Photography, Militarism, and Prostitution in USFK Camptowns" (Discussion leader: Margaret Olin)

Shawn Michelle Smith, "Photographic Returns: Lorna Simpson's 9 Props" (Discussion leader: Vered Maimon)

4:00 PM BREAK

4:15 PM DISCUSSION

Mary Bergstein (not attending), "Radiant Matter: X-Ray Photography in Turn-of-the-Century Vienna" (Discussion leader: Amos Morris-Reich)

Margaret Olin, "Attentiveness and Visual Imagination: A Gay Liberation Rally in Chicago 1970" (Discussion leader: Steffen Siegel)

6:30 PM DINNER

CAFE 7, CLARK CENTER

Saturday, April 22

10:00 AM DISCUSSION

MANTON RESEARCH CENTER, SCHOLARS' SEMINAR ROOM

Amos Morris-Reich, "Photography and Imagination in Nazi 'Racial Science'"
(Discussion leader: Britta Lange)

Hagi Kenaan, "Photography and the Future of the Face" (Discussion leader:
Margaret Olin)

11:30 AM BREAK

11:45 AM DISCUSSION

Blake Stimson, "Imagination's Privation" (Discussion leader: Hagi Kenaan)

12:30 PM LUNCH

MANTON RESEARCH CENTER, PENTHOUSE

4:00 PM WRAP UP CONVERSATION

6:30 PM DRINKS AND DINNER

MEZZE BISTRO + BAR, 777 COLD SPRING RD.

Cars will depart the Williams Inn for Mezze at 6:20 PM.