

**The Haifa Center for German and European Studies  
The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary  
German History and Society  
Seminar  
Lecture and Open Discussion**

**The Art of Describing:  
Redundancy, Transformation, Impersonation**

**Prof. Margaret Olin**

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Yale University, USA**



Photo: Archives of the Art Institute of  
Chicago (copy: James Elkins)

An artist, describing a work of art, weaves stories about it that preserve its mysteries. The art historical description, however, uses scholarly methodologies to coax the work into giving up its secrets. Or so it might seem.

But this assumption begins to unravel if one views the work of artists and art historians alike as performances. Artists and scholars of art use both visual and verbal means to transform visual material and make it accessible. An examination of visual methods developed by scholars of art in Austria and Germany in the early twentieth century, and verbal methods of describing taught to artists later in the century in the United States, reveals the creative practice at the heart of art historical methodology. It also suggests efforts by those who practice art history to conceal the creative side of their methodology.

**Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**18:00 – 19:30**

**Room 305, Jacobs Building (Entry Floor), University of Haifa**

**The lecture will be held in English**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**For further information:**

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