



Modernism Now!

BAMS International Conference

26–28 June 2014
Institute of English Studies
Senate House
London

Keynote Speakers:

Tyrus Miller (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Jacqueline Rose (Queen Mary, London)

Modernism Now! is a three-day international, interdisciplinary conference organised by the **British Association for Modernist Studies**, designed to explore ‘modernism’ today. The conference thus aims to discuss not only the past achievements of modernism but also to consider its possible futures. In *Modernism and Theory*, Neil Levi has recently suggested that in thinking about modernism we consider ‘the idea of a contemporary perpetuation of artistic modernism’ and that we see ‘modernist works as events whose implications demand continued investigation.’

Modernism Now! will explore these issues in two distinct ways:

- The conference aims to represent and reflect on the diversity of modernist studies today, and calls for papers assessing modernist writers, artists, texts and performances from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, methodological standpoints, and theoretical perspectives.
- *Modernism Now!* also wishes to explore the ongoing use of ‘modernism’ as a cultural, philosophical, and artistic category, analysing how and where modernism functions as a continuing aesthetic in the twenty-first century, across multiple disciplines, geographies, and traditions.

Topics might include (but are not restricted to):

- The idea of a contemporary modernism

- Modernist futures and legacies
- Past and previous modernisms
- Modernism as a continuing event
- Current debates in world literature and global modernist studies that stretch the historical/geographical framework of modernism
- The 'nowness' (*Jetztzeit*) of modernism; the new and the now
- Assessments of individual writers, artists, performers, texts, works of art that explore their status and relevance today
- Historical assessments of the term 'modernism'
- New trends in modernist studies e.g. periodical studies
- Anachronism
- Disciplinary borders and boundaries around modernism today
- 'Early' and 'late' modernisms; periodising modernism
- Current theorisations of modernism as a social/cultural/philosophical/political category
- How modernism informs the practice of contemporary artists/writers/performers
- Modernism and the tradition of the avant-garde
- Singular and plural modernism(s)

Proposals are welcomed for 20min papers, panels of 3-4 speakers, and focused round-tables on particular topics. Proposals should be no longer than 250 words per individual paper and should include a short biography for each speaker, including contact details.

Delegates must be members of BAMS in order to register. To become a member, go to <http://bams.ac.uk/membership/>

Proposals should be emailed to modernismnow@bams.ac.uk by **January 31st 2014**.

Conference Organising Committee

Dr Suzanne Hobson (Queen Mary, University of London)
 Chris Mourant (King's College London)
 Dr Cathryn Setz (University of Oxford)
 Professor Andrew Thacker (Nottingham Trent University)