

Call for Papers:
The 59th Annual UCLA Art History Graduate Symposium

In Crisis

Symposium Date: Friday, October 18, 2024
Location: The UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
CFP Deadline: Friday, August 16, 2024, 5 PM PDT

In the spring of 2024, student protests in support of Palestine on college campuses across North America were met with violent suppression. Sanctioned by university administrators and carried out by militarized police forces, these actions laid bare key contradictions within the academy, engendering a sense of crisis across campuses domestically and internationally. While crisis persists as a state of abstraction, artistic and scholarly responses render it material. With this in mind, we ask: What is an art history of crisis?; What does art history offer us in crisis?; How does art respond to crisis?; Can art engender crisis?; What role has crisis played in shaping the study and creation of art?; And what are our roles as scholars? Though crisis has taken on an urgent aspect, it is a universal and transhistorical phenomenon, one that opens disjunctures and forecloses possibilities. We invite papers that address the theme of crisis across a wide range of time periods and geographies, as well as those that address the discipline of art history itself.

The 59th Annual UCLA Art History Graduate Symposium, *In Crisis*, invites submissions that explore the various relationships between art and crises. From internal crises within the discipline to the presence of art in historical or present-day social movements. For example, we have witnessed how art has played a critical role in the Palestine Solidarity Encampments that have been organized around university campuses. What happens to this art and how can it be both documented and archived? What can we learn from how material culture has been historically documented and the absences in this documentation? How has material culture historically served as evidence of moments of crisis in the study of social movements? Additionally, how can interest in this work become a sustained material commitment?

In Crisis, invites papers that study how art history has responded to crisis through a range of time periods, regions, cultures, and mediums—from ancient to contemporary, global to local, and transnational to transhistorical. We welcome submissions that foreground methodological possibilities and interdisciplinary practices. Examples of topics include but are not limited to:

- Archives/archival practices
- Social movements
- Material culture
- Prints
- Graphic arts
- Architecture

- Ecological crisis
- Disaster
- Disciplinary crisis
- Crisis of evidence
- Identity crisis

The Annual UCLA Art History Graduate Student Symposium is the longest-running symposium of its kind in North America. Initiated in 1965, the symposium provides a forum for graduate students to present original research in a creative and non-judgmental scholarly format. This year's symposium will be held in person over one day in Los Angeles. Interested candidates are invited to submit an abstract of approximately 300 words along with a CV or resume to uclarthistorysymposium@gmail.com by Friday, August 16, 2024, by 5 PM PDT. Scholars at all stages in their graduate careers are welcome to apply. Accepted participants will be notified by Friday, August 30, 2024.