

This is the Newsletter of the Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture (AHM). AHM fosters a dynamic, interdisciplinary and transnational research of heritage, memory studies and material culture. As a research school and doctoral program, AHM is committed to the analysis of the remnants and narratives of the past in the present, as well as of the remaking of pasts into heritage, memory and material culture. The school stimulates scholarly cooperation in an international setting and organizes PhD training, seminars and lecture series, reading groups, public debates as well as international workshops and conferences. Please take a look at [our website](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### Sustainable Summit Series, 'Memory Institutions and Traumatic Heritage'

18 November 2020, 17:30-19:00

Online

This Sustainability Summit will shed light on the interconnectedness of sustainability and in particular highlighted how memory institutions and sites can start incorporating more facets of the SDGs into their practice. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their programs, ideas and aspirations, engaging with a global network of peers on how best to address all aspects of sustainability and how as leaders in social sustainability they can demonstrate and communicate their message with other cultural and heritage institutions. The summit will give participants the opportunity to showcase their perspectives and projects, get feedback from their peers, explore opportunities for collaboration, partnership and showcase and gain inspiration for best practice. The discussions will be facilitated by Caitlin Southwick, Founder and Executive Director of KI Culture and Sustainability in Conservation. For further information, please click [here](#).

### Exhibition, 'A(d) Just (The) City'

26 October until 20 November 2020

UvA BG2 (Turfdraagsterpad 15-17)

An exhibition by Chantal Hassard on the cultural production of autonomous space in Amsterdam. The prefigurative potential of socially engaged art is explored through the practices of artists, poets, musicians and other collectives associated with local free space and squatting politics. The Exquisite Corpse participatory painting project is on display alongside painbombs, a feature length documentary and a series of paintings based on scenes from the film.

### Lecture, 'Shame and Memory Politics of Illiberal States'

25 November 2020, 19.00-20.00

Online

This online event is part of OPEN UPI! The Heritage Contact Zone Week of Contested Heritage and the exhibition SHAME! Exploring Masculinities. The lecture will be given by Andrea Peto, who is a historian and a professor at the Department of Peto Studies at Central European University, Budapest, and a Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. For further information about the lecture, please visit the [website](#).

### Exhibition, 'Trembling Landscapes: Between Reality and Fiction'

19 September 2020 until 3 January 2021

Eye Filmmuseum

Eye Filmmuseum presents a group exhibition that explores landscape with some of the Arab world's most prominent artists who work with film and video. The artists relate to landscape in various ways. They do not shy away from interrogating how beauty, folklore, ideology, colonialism and violence are ingrained in how landscape is understood, conceptualized, visualized and imagined. More information about the exhibition can be found [here](#).

### Book Presentation, 'Vistas of Modernity: Decolonial Aesthetics and the End of the Contemporary' by Rolando Vázquez

21 January 2021, 15.00-16.00

Online

The research group Global Trajectories of Thought and Memory: Art from the Global invites Rolando Vázquez to present his latest work Vistas of Modernity: Decolonial Aesthetics and the End of the Contemporary (Mondriaan Fonds, 2020). As part of the group's interest in investigating heterogeneous models of aesthetics and genealogies of thought, Vázquez is invited to discuss his theory of decoloniality -- a critical proposal to enable epistemologies "de-linked" from a Western, modernist paradigm. For more information, please click [here](#).

### Exhibition, 'Shame! And Masculinity'

22 September 2020 until 29 January 2021, By appointment only,

Tuesday - Friday, 13.00-18.00

Herengracht 401, Amsterdam

In order to better understand how masculinities have been shaped by feelings of shame, the exhibition explores the different manifestations of shame, in intimate relation with its repercussions on masculinity. For this exhibition, works by a variety of contemporary artists, both male and female, have been selected, in order to explore the issues that for centuries have determined representations of masculinity, especially, but not exclusively, of male sexuality. Due to Corona measurements visitors are asked to send an email to [mal@h401.org](mailto:mal@h401.org) with the day and hour of the planned visit. More information about the exhibition and visitation can be found [here](#).

## News

### New AHM Funded PHD Candidate: Florence Evans

The 2020 AHM Funded PhD position has been offered to Florence Evans. Evans holds a Masters in History of Art and Visual Culture from St. Anne's College at the University of Oxford. Evans' project examines how cultural producers construct and modify the experiences of time for their spectators/audiences as well as the imaginative and generative potential of post memory and a structure of transmission. Tracing ideas across diverse cultural forms of heritage and memory practices, from a rarified work of art to a popular television series, the project seeks to uncover spaces of resistance wherein dominant forces of neutralization and forgetting can be undermined.

### New AHM Assistant Professor of Memory and Museums: Dr. Colin Sterling

AHM is delighted to welcome Dr. Colin Sterling as an Assistant Professor of Memory and Museums, as of January 2021. Sterling is currently an AHRC Research Fellow at UCL Institute of Archaeology. He was previously a Post-Doctoral Research Associate on the AHRC Heritage Priority Area project, and a Project Curator at the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has worked as a heritage consultant internationally, specializing in curatorial planning and interpretation. Colin Sterling's research focuses on critical-creative approaches to heritage, memory and museums. He is interested in how artists, designers, architects, writers and other creative practitioners engage with museums and heritage as spaces of critical enquiry.

### New Honorary Fellow: Antonis Pittas

Visual Arts artist Antonis Pittas is the new Honorary Fellow at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam. As an Honorary Fellow, Pittas will focus on the theme of Recycling History. In his work, Pittas investigates different historical and art-historical aspects of public space, and its social and political implications. His art connects architecture with the social dynamics of its environment. During his fellowship, Pittas will be active as an artistic researcher in the Art History program and the research master Artistic Research. Pittas will also be involved in *Van Klooster tot kwartier*, a 4D Research Lab project by professor Lex Bosman and Patricia Lulof, director of the 4D Research Lab.

### Documentary on AHM Project: 'Vlooienburg - the History of a Jewish Neighbourhood'

AT5, the local television station of Amsterdam, has recently produced an hour-long documentary in collaboration with AHM NWO-project 'Diaspora and Identity: an integrated archeological and historical investigation into material life, ethnicity, and diet in the district of Vlooienburg, Amsterdam (AD 1600-1800)'. The documentary sheds light on the question what archeological finds can tell us about the life of the residents of 'Vlooienburg', in the 17th and 18th centuries. The documentary can be viewed [here](#).

### The Huzinga Institute's 25th Anniversary

The year 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Huzinga Institute. The festive occasion is celebrated with an exciting selection of (online) items. From research videos and columns to an alumni guide and a stimulating video-conversation on the field of Cultural History between members of the Huzinga community and Professor Lyndal Roper (Oxford University). For more celebratory content, please visit the [website](#).

## New Publications

### Archaeologies of Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism, and Repression: Dark Modernities

James Symonds, Pavel Vařeka (eds.), 2020

Symonds and Vařeka offer new insights into the mechanisms of state control, systematic repression and mass violence focused on ethnic, political, class, and religious minorities in the recent past. The geographical and temporal scope of the volume breaks new ground as international scholars foreground how contemporary archaeology can be used to enhance the documentation and interpretation of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, to advance theoretical approaches to atrocities, and to broaden public understandings of how such regimes use violence and repression to hold on to power. More information can be found [here](#).

### Sharing the Burden of Stories from the Tutsi Genocide

Anna-Marie deBeer, 2020

DeBeer deals with literary representations of the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda. The focus is a transnational, polyphonic writing project entitled 'Rwanda: écrire par devoir de mémoire' (Rwanda: Writing by Duty of Memory), undertaken in 1998 by a group of nine African authors. This work emphasizes the Atropolitan cultural frame in which the texts were conceived and written. Instead of using Western and Eurocentric tropes, this volume looks at a so-called 'minority trauma': an African conflict situated in a collectivist society and written about by writers from African origin. This approach enables a more situated study, in which it becomes possible to draw out the local notions of ubuntu, oral testimonies, mourning traditions, healing and storytelling strategies, and the presence of the 'invisible'. For further information, please visit the [website](#).

### Martyrdom: Canonisation, Contestation and Afterlives

Ihab Saloul and Jan Willem van Henten (eds.), 2020

The phenomenon of martyrdom is more than 2000 years old but, as contemporary events show, still very much alive. Saloul and van Henten explore the canonisation, contestation and afterlives of martyrdom and connect these with cross-cultural acts and practices of remembrance. Martyrdom appeals to the imagination of many because it is a highly ambiguous spectacle with thrilling deadly consequences. Imagination is thus a vital catalyst for martyrdom, for martyrs become martyrs only because others remember and honour them as such. This memorialisation occurs through rituals and documents that incorporate and re-interpret traditions deriving from canonical texts. By adopting an interdisciplinary orientation and a cross-cultural approach, this book goes beyond both the insider admiration of martyrs and the partisan rejection of martyrdoms and concisely synthesises key interpretive questions and themes that broach the canonised, unstable and contested representations of martyrdom as well as their analytical connections, divergences and afterlives in the present. For more information, please click [here](#).

## Past Events

### Expert Meeting, 'Archiving, Art and Activism'

13 november 2020

'Archiving, Art and Activism' was an expert meeting of the AHM research group 'Global Trajectories of Thought and Memory: Art and the Global South' with artist and writer Gregory Sholette, who holds a PhD in History and Memory Studies from the University of Amsterdam. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

The next AHM Newsletter will be published in February 2021.

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Amsterdam School of Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

Our mailing address is:  
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For more up-to-date news and events, please check the AHM website.

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