

Crossings:

Visual Studies Across Borders

WEDNESDAY
3 DECEMBER 2025

HANS BELTING LIBRARY
VEVEŘÍ 28, BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC

INFORMATION Borders, as an ever-present issue, can be either physical demarcations drawn on maps and reinforced by walls or conceptual constructs, determining social divisions, marking the boundaries of cultures, edges of disciplines, and limits of identities. Frontiers can regulate movement, define belonging, and serve as a site of negotiation, exclusion, and resistance. Yet they are never fixed: they shift, dissolve, and reappear in new forms.

Whether in a literal, symbolic or metaphorical sense, the notion of borders has always been present in the visual studies, emerging not only as a visual representation of geopolitical or territorial lines but also in the sense of material and conceptual thresholds that shape how images are made, framed and experienced. Images have the power both to uphold and to challenge the boundaries of concepts such as nations, ethnicities, religion, gender and class, drawing the lines of inclusion and exclusion within identities, but also serve as a site of protest and contestation. It is also in the capacity of images to push the material borders of various media by appear-

ing in diverse forms — from classical, such as painting, through photography, experimental practices of image-making to computer-made visuals, that operate at the edges of the tangible world, engaging with non-human and digital realms and questioning the very outlines of reality. In exploring these and many more perspectives, Art History and Visual Studies continuously expand and redefine their own disciplinary boundaries, opening new avenues for interdisciplinary dialogue and creative inquiry.

This international conference invites all PhD candidates engaged with visual studies to submit critical reflections that interrogate the ways in which borders in their many forms — spatial, conceptual, social, artistic, intellectual, and psychological are constructed, maintained, and challenged. By bringing together diverse disciplinary approaches, we aim to foster dialogue on how borders are crossed, represented, contested, dismantled and redefined in visual studies throughout all time periods and to also discuss the innovative ways of approaching borders in contemporary societies.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES We welcome submissions from PhD students engaged with Art History, Visual Studies and related fields. Applicants are invited to submit an abstract in English (max 250 words), along with a short bio (100—150 words). **Please send your materials to Jakub Sochor at 413892@mail.muni.cz by 20 October 2025.** Selected participants will be notified by 26 October.

Each contribution at the conference should be in the form of an individual paper prepared for a 20-minute presentation, followed by a discussion. **For additional inquiries, please get in touch with Valéria Bláha at valeria.krsiakova@mail.muni.cz.**

INTERNATIONAL PHD CONFERENCE
ON ART HISTORY AND RELATED FIELDS

MUNI
ARTS Department
of Art History