

SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR: DISTANCES IN ART



Left: Unknown American or European maker, Type No. 149, ca. 1800. Carved wood, hand-painted, 2 1/4 x 7/8 in. (5.4 x 5.0 x 2.2 cm). Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, United States. Gift of Elizabeth Weaver. Image courtesy of the Dallas Museum of Art.

RAHGA Graduate Student Online Conference: DISTANCES IN ART

February 26th-27th, 2021

Department of Art History, Meadows School of the Arts
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

"Seeing 'the entire world as a foreign land' makes possible bilinguality of vision." Edward Said, *Orientalism*, p. 186.

"Distances were not invariably fixed, and for all. There might be a hundred different distances, and they could grow to infinity, before setting out on a long, slow, and gradual advance." Edward Said, *Orientalism*, p. 186.

Start from a point and ask: *how are you moving?* *What is your trajectory?* *What is your destination?* *How are you moving through time, through space?* *Through reality, or through your dreams?*

In a world of uncertainty and a future that we have not yet seen, how do we transverse through different Janus-faced worlds? How do we translate objects into images? How does art allow us to inhabit and share extreme and infinitesimal distances? What happens when an object is seen and collected? As our sense of time and space has shifted, and been reshaped by global uncertainties, the 2021 RAHGA graduate student online conference will focus on the nature of distance, grappled with separation and new spaces for people who know how to connect. This interdisciplinary in nature and we welcome discussion of distance.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

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| Connectivity and nexuses | Connectivity and nexuses | Borders |
| Closeness and intimacy | Closeness and intimacy | ... Networks |
| Proximity and remoteness | Proximity and remoteness | Temporal and generational distance |
| Travel and journeys | Travel and journeys | Nostalgia |
| Space | Space | Revival and evanescence |
| Migration | Migration | Attachment and communities |
| Diaspora | Diasporas | Borders and homelands |
| | | Communication and languages |

For consideration, please submit a 800-word (maximum) abstract for a 15-minute presentation and a PDF of 3-5 attachments to rahga@smu.edu by **December 11th, 2020**.

Selected participants will be notified by December 21st, 2020. Participants will be compensated in lieu of a stipend. The conference will be conducted entirely online and participation will be given more information upon acceptance. Your submission is the conference organizer at rahga@smu.edu with any questions.