CALL FOR PAPERS
ART IN LAW IN ART CONFERENCE

Introduction

We invite you to submit your abstracts for the Art in Law in Art Conference. The conference will be held in the beautiful Perth Cultural Precinct at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 July 2017. The conference will be hosted by the UWA Law School, University of Western Australia.

Art in Law in Art is an interdisciplinary conference investigating the broad themes of how law sees visual art, and how visual art sees law. Papers from any discipline may engage with any aspect that explores these general themes and may embrace a broad definition of both visual art and law.

Keynote speaker, art in law: Professor Desmond Manderson

Keynote speaker, law in art: Carey Young, visual artist.

Theme 1: Art In Law

Law touches upon a range of legal topics and areas, and this theme explores the full breadth and depth of issues.

Some of the questions that may be explored include: how is art perceived in different legal contexts, and in different times? In what ways is the law called on to address definitional issues of ‘art’? What assumptions are made about art by legislators, the judiciary, lawyers, and interpreters of the law and what impacts do these assumptions have? What is the status of art in different legal territories, what factors categorise something as art within a legal framework, and what are the implications of attaining that status? Who should be the arbiter of the question ‘what is art’? Papers in this theme may also wish to address law’s blindness to art. When – and why – does the law fail to see art?

Some suggested subject areas include, but are certainly not limited to:

art in:
- intellectual property law;
- commercial and taxation law;
- criminal law;
- human rights law;
- torts and contract law;
Theme 2: Law in Art

This theme explores how law is perceived and represented by artists and theorists

This theme explores the broad question of how the law is perceived in the theory and practice of visual art. How do artists construct law and legal issues? How does law impact artists and how do they see the law? Do art makers and art interpreters necessarily speak different languages and see through different lenses?

Some suggested subject areas include, but are not limited to:

- perceptions of visual art;
- the experience of law in art;
- how artists represent law in their work;
- interpretations of law in art by theorists.

Papers may be empirical, practical or theoretical, and address historical or current issues. We seek a broad representation of international scholars, practitioners and artistic and cultural institutions, as well as scholars from across the disciplines, including legal scholars, aesthetic and legal philosophers, artists, art theorists and legal and art historians. Both established and junior scholars are encouraged to submit abstracts.

We hope that invited speakers will contribute chapters to a themed book following the conference.

Submission of abstracts

Please submit a 300-word abstract of your proposed paper as well as a one-paragraph bio including your contact details by 15 January 2017 to conference-law@uwa.edu.au. Acceptance will be notified by 4 February 2017.

Conference website


Field Trips

The conference will be held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia with the opportunity to enjoy exhibitions on display. Side trips will be available to the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia, as well as several galleries of Indigenous art. Field trips may involve a small fee for transportation and lunch. Details will be available on the conference web site in due course.

We look forward to seeing you at the Art in Law in Art conference in July 2017! If you require further information, please contact the conference convenor, Jani McCutcheon, at jani.mccutcheon@uwa.edu.au