Since its birth at the end of the 18th century, modern democracy has proved to be more than a system of government: forms of governance and ways of living dovetail as to formulate its structural complexity. Already in classical antiquity, politicians and thinkers observed the profound influence of the self-governing collective in shaping individual sensibilities; the modern democratic mechanism of representation increases and foregrounds such structural complexity, seeing the self-actualization of the demos and selection of political representatives via aesthetic media and strategies. Indeed, the aesthetic dimensions reveal modern democracies to be life-forms. That is, democracies reach deep into the fabric of life, cultivating certain modes of conduct, forms of communication, artistic practices, individual as well as collective forms of experience – all of which intertwine and shape the lives of those involved.

The international graduate conference THE AESTHETICS OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE-FORMS thus seeks to understand aesthetics not as a disparate, hostile sphere in relation to democracy – an assumption which posits the aesthetization of politics to be inherently anti-democratic –, nor as a structurally analogous foil for democratic politics. Rather, this conference hopes to shed light on how aesthetic practices and phenomena provide insight into democratic life-forms, as well as how political practices and discussions implicate modes of conduct whose aesthetic dimensions lend themselves to productive analysis.

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Everyone is welcome, registration encouraged at aedl.grade@gmail.com

Program:

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Organizers:
Dominik Herold, Claudia Young-joo Park, Martin Renz, Julius Schwarzwälder

Steffen Andrae
Susan Buck-Morss
Eva-Maria Ciesla
Dorothea Douglas
Anne Eusterschulte
Sören Fiedler
Rainer Forst
Jason Frank
Daniel Hartley
Dominik Herold
Rob Horning
Martin Jay
Kathrin Klöss
Bianca Laliberté
Sandra Laugier
Leonie Licht
Sophie Loidolt
Jaka Lombar
Patchen Markell
Sabine Müller
Claudia Young-joo Park
Francesca Raimondi
Martin Renz
Leontin Rupf
Johanna Rutz
Goethe-University Frankfurt
Normative Orders Building
Max-Horkheimer-Str. 2
60323 Frankfurt
EG 01/02
14:00-14:10 Welcome from the Organizers  

Dominik Herold (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

14:10-14:20 Opening Remarks  
Rainer Forst (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

14:20-14:35 Introduction to the Conference Theme  
Johannes Völz (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

14:35-15:30 Keynote: \textit{Leib, Körper and the Body Politic}  
Martin Jay (UC Berkeley)

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:45 Podium Discussion + Q&A  
Martin Jay (UC Berkeley)  
Susan Buck-Morss (CUNY)  
Katrin Trüstedt (ZfL Berlin)  
Martin Saar (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

17:45-18:00 Coffee Break

18:00-18:50 FORUM 1  
Chair: Jacobie Schlegel (University of Art and Design Offenbach am Main)

Generative AI as Predictive Stoicism  
media horizon (Cologne and Düsseldorf)

19:00-21:00 Private Dinner

22:00-23:30 Early Bird Registration

23:30-00:00 Networking and Late Night Meetings

Saturday 23/09/2023

09:00-12:15 PANEL 1  
Chair: Lukas Neisengruber (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Representing Gaia? Towards a Politics of Appearing  
Katrin Trüstedt (ZfL Berlin)

Political and Aesthetic Representation: A Problem Solved, Or Still a Challenge?  
Sabine Müller (University of Vienna)

The Politics of Style  
Daniel Hartley (Durham University)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

Politics of Prose. The Language of Resistance and the Resistance of Language  
Franziska Wildt (Goethe-University Frankfurt, Institute for Social Research)

Literary as Life-Form: Reflections on the Realism and Politics of Literature  
Claudia Young-joo Park (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

"Neues Sehen". Realism as Critique  
Steffen Andrae (University of Erfurt)

12:15–13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–16:45 PANEL 2  
Chair: Amadeus Ulrich (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

The Aesthetics of Touch. Art and Being Together in Time of Crisis  
Antje Krause-Wahl (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

Exhibition Design as a Performative Medium of Democracy?  
Johanna Wurz (University of Kassel)

The Projected Body of the Legal Subject. Institutional Embodiment in the Stairwell of the Amtsgericht Mitte in Berlin  
Dorothea Douglas (HU Berlin)

15:00–15:15 Coffee Break

The Return of Mimesis and Mirroring in New Media  
Jaka Lombar (Trinity College Dublin)

Spivak and Adorno on the Transformation of \textit{Darstellung}  
William Ross (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

The "Useful Arts" Apparatus. The American Revolution's Visual Production  
Bianca Laliberté (Université du Québec à Montréal)

16:45–17:15 Coffee Break

17:15–18:45 FORUM 2  
Chair: Svenja Stoltenberg (TU Berlin)

An Aesthetics of Democracy  
Janos Frank (Queen’s University)

The Aesthetics of Touch. Art and Being Together in Time of Crisis  
Antje Krause-Wahl (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

17:15–18:15 Chair: Nathan Taylor (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  

An Aesthetics of Democracy  
Janos Frank (Queen’s University)

The Aesthetics of Democratic Life-Forms  
Jochen Schuff (FU Berlin)

18:15–18:45 Aesthetics and Democracy from Model to Medium  
Frauke Hütten (FU Berlin)

18:45–19:15 Coffee Break

19:15–20:45 FORUM 3  
Chair: Kamila Borkowska (ZfL Berlin)

"Neues Sehen". Realism as Critique  
Claudia Young-joo Park (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

The Politics of Style  
Daniel Hartley (Durham University)

20:45–21:15 Coffee Break

21:15–22:45 Chair: Anne Eusterschulte (FU Berlin)  

Sophie Loidolt (TU Darmstadt)

Sophie Loidolt (TU Darmstadt)

Sophie Loidolt (FU Berlin)

22:45–23:15 Social Dinner

Sunday 24/09/2023

09:00-12:15 PANEL 3  
Chair: Catherine Matthes (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

The Return of Mimesis and Mirroring in New Media  
Jaka Lombar (Trinity College Dublin)

Spivak and Adorno on the Transformation of \textit{Darstellung}  
William Ross (Goethe-University Frankfurt)

The "Useful Arts" Apparatus. The American Revolution’s Visual Production  
Bianca Laliberté (Université du Québec à Montréal)

15:00–15:15 Coffee Break

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16:45–17:15 Coffee Break

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