

**ART, HISTORY AND MEMORY IN POST-WAR EAST/CENTRAL EUROPE**  
**Panel at the Association of Art Historians Annual Conference 2004:**  
***Old/New?***

Univ. of Nottingham

Date: April 1-4, 2004.

Location: University of Nottingham.

Deadline: Abstracts of 200-400 words should be sent, preferably by e-mail, to the organisers by November 1, 2003.

Speakers will receive confirmation of acceptance of their papers in mid-November 2003.

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This is the second call for papers for the session on *Art, History and Memory in Post-War East/Central Europe* at the Association of Art Historians Annual Conference 2004: *Old/New?* at the University of Nottingham, UK.

The past was highly politicised during the socialist period in Eastern/Central Europe. The force of history was invoked to legitimate authority. And ›collective memory‹ was activated to contest lies and distortions in the historical record. Memory and history were often counterposed in what Havel described as the struggle to »live in truth«.

What role did art and architecture play in these processes? And how should this often contentious art be considered today? By similar measure the historiography of the field needs to be re-examined. What was the relation of scholarship to authority?

With currents of nationalism, nostalgia, lustration and triumphalism pulsing through post-communist societies, memory and history have been brought into new relations in the last dozen years. How the histories of art, architecture, design and film of the socialist period are written continues to be an ethically and politically sensitive matter. As Slovene writer Marina Gržinič commented in *Fiction Reconstructed* (2000) »it is time to find and to re-write paradigms of specific spaces, arts and media productions in Eastern Europe.«

The convenors of this strand welcome proposals of papers dealing with any aspect of art (widely defined to include architecture, design and film) or the art historiography of East/Central Europe in the period since the Second World War

It is hoped that some funding will be available to speakers from Central and Eastern Europe.