

Framing the north: art and museums in northern Europe

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Abstract

Frames are very important when it comes to works of art. Nevertheless, all too often the frame is either taken for granted or simply ignored. This applies as much to an ornate border surrounding a painting as it does to a pedestal supporting a sculpture. But there are other frames, too. The architectural spaces of museums and galleries frame the objects they contain. Exhibitions provide thematic frames for the selection and display of particular works of art. Catalogues and reviews form a critical, evaluative frame. The discipline of art history establishes an academic frame, placing artists and their work into schools, movements or national contexts. Taking this as my starting point I will go on to use the notion of framing to introduce an on-going research project into art and museums in the Nordic countries. This immediately establishes a geographical frame for my study: Norden. Is this a definable region with particular characteristics? Or is the idea of 'Nordic art' a construction: a frame without a subject?

This presentation is part of a four-year research project entitled 'Nordic Spaces'. It is funded by a consortium led by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.* The talk will be given in English.

* For more information see:
- <http://www.nordicspaces.eu>

About the presenter:

Dr Stuart Burch is an Associate of the Museums Association and a senior lecturer at Nottingham Trent University's School of Arts and Humanities. His main academic specialisms are Museum Studies and Public History. Successful grant applications have facilitated research at a variety of universities in Britain, Finland, Sweden and Norway. Stuart is currently halfway through a four year multinational research project investigating museums in the Nordic region and funded by a consortium led by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.