



Chair of Art History  
and Culture Institute  
Nicolaus Copernicus University  
in Toruń  
is honored to announce  
a conference entitled

## The search for cultural identity in Central and Eastern Europe 1919-2009

Toruń - Poland  
May 10-11, 2013



The years of political and economic transformation in Europe after the Fall of Berlin Wall are characterized by a renewal of interest in the paradigm of national/regional/local identity and the return of traditions which were abandoned or lost during the Cold War, worldwide globalization and the cultural integration of the Continent. Opposition to national, ethnic and religious identification, feminism, and Gender and Queer studies has become stronger, and tensions arising from these positions have generated a broad area for discourse on the role of art as an expression of these recent developments.

This conference encompasses the time between the year 1919, when France, Italy and Germany adopted a „return to order” ideology which rapidly spread to the newly-established states of Central and Eastern Europe in the form of idiosyncratic nationalisms, and the year 2009 which was a time of retrospection in the countries of the Eastern Bloc, which (re)gained democracy while at the same time being subjected to external pressures (economic, legal and cultural) different from those of the period before 1989.

This conference will be concerned with attempts to revive or create national and local narratives, and with various formulas emphasizing sexual identity and individual experience during the inter-war period, the time of the Iron Curtain and the two post-1989 decades. Scholars seeking examples of these tendencies in the visual arts (including film and new media), architecture, art criticism and art theory are invited to propose topics in these fields. As any form of reinterpretation of the past or of confrontation of the past with the present is ideological in nature (often divergent or exclusive), we shall seek an answer to the question: „Can art, art history and art criticism assist in the negotiation of new world views in contemporary society?”

✉ for further details, feel free to contact prof. Irena Kossowska  
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