

CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE

INDUSTRIAL CULTURE FOR FUTURE (IC₄ FUTURE)

PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW CHARTA OF INDUSTRIAL CULTURE

LOCATION: LWL-Industriemuseum, Zeche Zollern, Dortmund
LVR-Industriemuseum, Peter-Behrens-Bau, Oberhausen

TIME: November 4-5, 2021

As part of the cooperative project **FUTUR21 – kunst industrie kultur** the Landschaftsverband Rheinland (LVR) and the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) will convene the conference *Industrial Culture for Future (IC₄ Future) - Paving the Way for a New Charta of Industrial Culture* on November 4-5, 2021 in the LWL-Industrial Museum, Zeche Zollern in Dortmund (Germany) with a collective immersive art experience at the LVR-Industrial Museum Peter-Behrens-Bau in Oberhausen on the evening of November 5, 2021.

After decades of engaging with socially relevant topics from a historical-cultural perspective, the industrial museums of the LVR and the LWL wish to tread new paths and discuss future-oriented questions together with a variety of actors from academia, the art world as well as from cultural institutions, in particular museums. Such questions may include: What are key questions on the way to a diverse, sustainable and digital society, to which an engagement with industrial culture provides answers? To what extent should industrial museums as community forums take into focus the future-related topics of (post-) industrial society, and how are they capable of doing so? Which common narratives require critical examination and further development? How does industrial culture relate to, or is immersed in, power structures? And, is it time to approach industrial culture through the theoretical lens of power? What is the role of the Digital Arts in inspiring new forms of representation and mediation in museums? What can the Digital Arts contribute to the conceptualization of a “New Industrial Culture”?

We invite proposals to the panel „Powerful Narratives – Narratives of Power“:

This panel seeks to reflect self-critically on the so far largely socio-historical alignment of industrial museums and re-frames such alignment according to contemporary discourses and theories of power. Particular attention will be paid to the dialectics of inclusion and exclusion (speech/silence).

In a transdisciplinary dialogue, we analyze the highly charged relationship between narratives of industrial culture and power. Our idea of “narrative” is thus a broad one, including various narrative mediations of industrial culture, such as literature, art, film, industrial artefacts, museum objects, and exhibition narratives.

More specifically, we would like to address the following questions:

- Which powerful narratives have been produced in the realm of industrial culture in the 21st century? By whom and with what intention? How much do these narratives activate the past? How do they construct “the future” (especially with respect to issues such as democracy, sustainability, and global justice)? And, what is the relationship between such constructions of “the future” and the (de)industrial pasts that these narratives are grounded in?
- To what extent do spatial, temporal, institutional and professional contexts, as well as their position within social discourses of power influence the shape and form of powerful narratives of industrial culture?
- In what ways do powerful narratives of industrial culture impact the formation of social and political spaces? In how far do they not merely represent the social status quo while actively shaping social spaces? At what point do powerful narratives turn into narratives of power?
- Who or what is marginalized/excluded from powerful narratives of industrial culture? Who speaks? Whose voices are marginalized or silenced? We wish to focus here particularly on those voices that have been marginalized, if not left out, because of their ethnicity, race, gender, sex, status or their position within (post-) colonial structures of dominance.

Confirmed Speakers: Prof. Dr. Stefan Berger, Prof. Dr. Steven High, Prof. Dr. Sherry Lee Linkon, Prof. Dr. Laurajane Smith, Prof. Dr. Marion Steiner, Prof. Dr. Tim Strangleman.

Applicants should submit a proposal (300 word including title) and a C.V. (max. 100 word) by May 30, 2021 to conference@futur21.de

Decisions will be announced in July 2021.

Conference language will be English and German.

Due to the pandemic, the event will take place in a hybrid conference.

For more conference details, see www.futur21.nrw