

Painting and sculpture play a beautiful role in the realm of architecture, as architecture plays a beautiful role in the realms of painting and sculpture.¹
—Louis I. Kahn (1960)



October 8, 2016

A BEAUTIFUL ROLE: ARCHITECTURE AND THE DISPLAY OF ART Graduate Student Symposium at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT

In May 2016, the reopening of the Yale Center for British Art, Louis I. Kahn's final building, marked the completion of three phases of an ongoing conservation program. To signal this occasion, and the complete reinstallation of the collection, the Center is hosting a symposium to investigate the role that buildings play in the display of art. This graduate student symposium focuses on museum architecture and seeks to inspire fresh thinking about the relationship between works of art and the buildings that contain them by addressing the ways in which architecture can enhance, limit, and transform our encounters with art. The symposium concludes with a keynote lecture by George Knight, founder of Knight Architecture and principal-in-charge of the Center's conservation projects.

The symposium is free and open to the public. Advance registration is recommended. Online registration is available until October 6. Onsite registration will be available on the day of the symposium. For further information, please contact Research (ycba.research@yale.edu | +1 203 432 2824) or register online at britishart.yale.edu/conferences. This symposium will be live streamed.

5:30 pm | Keynote Lecture: *Conserving Kahn*
George Knight, Principal of Knight Architecture, LLC

Described by Director Amy Meyers as, "the largest and most complex work of art in the collection," the Yale Center for British Art, designed by Louis I. Kahn to house Paul Mellon's extraordinary gift to Yale University, stands as a masterwork of architectural design. Construction of the Center was completed by 1975, and the building opened to the public in 1977. By 2002, when Amy Meyers was appointed director, the Center faced a host of infrastructural and programmatic pressures that threatened to irrevocably alter the character of the building. For example, the ever-expanding collection had outgrown the original provisions for its storage, conservation, curation, and administration; scholars, professors, and lecturers required augmented and technologically robust spaces to teach from the collection; and the ingenious building systems, exterior envelope, and interior finishes were fast approaching the end of their serviceable life or were in need of significant renewal.

This lecture will describe the measures taken to ensure that these demands could be addressed while protecting the architecture of the Center for the edification and delight of future generations.

[1] Quoted in Alexandra Tyng, *Beginnings: Louis I. Kahn's Philosophy of Architecture* (New York: Wiley, 1984), 71.

OCTOBER 8 SCHEDULE

9:30 am Registration | ENTRANCE COURT

10 am Introduction | LECTURE HALL
David Lewis, Yale Center for British Art

10:15 am–noon **THE POSTWAR MUSEUM AND THE UNIVERSITY**

PANEL A

SESSION CHAIR
Kirsty Dootson,
History of Art
Department, Yale

- Hilary Floe, University of Oxford
Reimagining the Post-Industrial: The Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, 1966-1976
- Gary Huafan He, Yale University
Papers from the Treasury of a Stranger
- Craig Lee, University of Delaware
Taking a Look Around: The Architecture and Identity of the Hood Museum of Art

noon–1 pm Lunch

1–2 pm **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- Jules Prown, Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art, Yale University
An Architectural Tour of the of the Yale Center for British Art, Designed by Louis I Kahn
- Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Scully Visiting Professor of Architectural History, Yale University
An Architectural Tour of the Yale University Art Gallery and Yale School of Architecture
- Rachel Chatalbash, Senior Archivist, Yale Center for British Art,
Molly Dotson, Assistant Director for Special Collections, Haas Arts Library, and
Suzanne Noruschat, Architectural Records Archivist, Manuscripts and Archives
Researching Museum Design: An Archival Perspective
- Edward Town, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Yale Center for British Art,
Reinstalling the Collection at the Yale Center for British Art

2–3:15 pm **ARTISTS AND THE MUSEUM**

PANEL B

SESSION CHAIR:
Eugene Han,
Yale School of
Architecture

- Mae Colburn, Parsons School of Art and Design
Moving In to the Museum: Helena Hernmarck's Blue Wash at the Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Michael Abrahamson, University of Michigan
The Interchangeability of Things: Eduardo Paolozzi and Museum Architecture, 1979-1988

3:15 pm Break

3:45–5 pm **POLITICS AND GLOBAL ISSUES**

PANEL C

SESSION CHAIR:
Lily Higgins,
History of Art
Department, Yale

- Manuel López Segura, Harvard University
Constructing Democracy Through the Arts: Civic Identity at the Valencian Institute of Modern Art
- Gabrielle Printz, Columbia University
The Googleplex and the Metamuseum: the Architecture of Post/New-Institutionalism

5:30 pm Keynote Lecture
George Knight, Principal of Knight Architecture, LLC
Conserving Kahn

6:30 pm Reception | LIBRARY COURT