

We invite you to the conference

## Central Europe 1989: Image - Memory - Record

Warsaw, November 19-20, 2009

The year 1989 is a turning point that led to a total change of reality in Polish collective memory. Around this significant date in Poland are the memories of groundbreaking events in other European countries: the beginning of democratic processes in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, in the Baltic States, in Romania and Bulgaria, the demise of Yugoslavia and the reunification of Germany. Sometimes recollections come along with a reflection that the political, social and cultural transformation did not happen overnight, in "that particular" mythical moment, but it was the culmination of a series of processes building up to the climax (such as the Polish August of 1980) and which at the same time opened the door to a change in political systems, institutions, legal regulations, tradition and mentality.

Twenty years seems to be enough to gain necessary distance and to allow for a critical look back at the breakthrough of 1989 in our part of Europe. The Polish anniversary of the Round Table, the June Election and finally, the appointment of the first non-communist government is a starting point for a discussion on the image of events that has come to be known as "the Autumn of Nations". Therefore, we would like to invite you to a conference not be so much the course of the events themselves, but rather the "images" – the way these events manifested in various media circulations of that time (the official,

emigration, foreign, opposition – with time allowed to the official stream, as well as to "the third" circulation) and in various mass media (TV, the press, documentary and feature films, photography, leaflets and graffiti), and how it all left an imprint on the memory of the participants, the witnesses and new generations of Central-Eastern European citizens.

Therefore, we want to raise questions about the most important events of the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s that have remained in the individual and collective memory of the citizens of the region. What sort of documents and commentaries do we have? Which of them are used today to describe the events from twenty years ago and which have been omitted? Which of them were scientifically drawn up and which have remained undecided until today? How, from today's perspective, can one characterize the circulation of information in Poland and Central Europe twenty years ago – the official view, independent views, those recently appreciated and finally – those ephemeral, momentary and environmental views that do not always leave any trace. How, if at all, has the specificity of that time influenced the later language of public discourse, political practices, media culture and the shape of artistic creativity? What place in the memory of those years do they owe to the art of writing, cinematography and photography?

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"The Future of Media" International Association  
Arkana Studio

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We invite you to a discussion on those and similar questions, in the company of political scientists, media and cultural experts, historians and other interested parties.

Deadline for application is **June 30, 2009**. Applications should include the subject of the speech, a short summary (500-1000 characters), a list of technical requirements and information about the author. The languages of the conference will be Polish and English. It is possible to present a paper in other language, as long as the text is delivered earlier in English. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Participation in the conference is free of charge. To those interested, we offer help in arranging accommodation in Warsaw

Please submit your applications and paper proposals to:  
**[programy.studium@uw.edu.pl](mailto:programy.studium@uw.edu.pl)**

The organizers reserve the right to select speakers from the submitted applications. We plan to publish a post-conference volume.

The conference accompanies the ART OF DOCUMENT multimedia festival, which takes place along the Warsaw Royal Route from 9 to 22 November 2009. This year's edition of Art of Document is called "Year 1989 in Europe. Freedom – Media - Democracy". Apart from the conference, we are planning documentary and feature film screenings, archive record shows, an outdoor photography exhibition as well as various meetings with experts and participants of the events from 20 years ago, as well as with the creators of their image in the media. You can find more information about the festival and the conference on:

[www.artofdocument.pl](http://www.artofdocument.pl)

[www.studium.uw.edu.pl](http://www.studium.uw.edu.pl)

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