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Invitation

The Novo Nordisk Foundation

Art Inspirational Meeting 2020

23 November, 4.00 pm – 6.45 pm

You are invited to the annual art inspirational meeting hosted by the Novo Nordisk Foundation Committee on Research in Art & Art History

The event will take place online.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is mandatory via this link:

[Sign up now](#)

Program

4.00 PM Welcome

4.10 PM "Why does art matter? What use is art history?", Professor David Freedberg, Columbia University

5.25 PM Presentations by Novo Nordisk Foundation grant holders:

"Eksperiment i aktiv mytisk tænkning", Marie Kølbaek Iversen, PhD Scholar in Practice Based Research in Art, Aarhus University and Oslo National Academy of the Arts

"The imaginary museum of philosophical monsters" Dehlia Hannah, Postdoctoral Fellow in Art and Natural Science, Aalborg University, Copenhagen

6.20 PM Presentation of funding opportunities at the Novo Nordisk Foundation

6.45 PM Thank you.

Starting time
in New York City
is 10AM EST

Why does art matter?

What use is art history?

Surprising as it may seem, the apparent rise of fake news has made the history of art more relevant than ever before. We may not know how to define art now, but the project of grappling with its definition and searching for relevant cases teaches us lessons in judgement, both in art and in life. This lecture takes examples from both contemporary art and the history of art, and uses the tools of history, psychology and neuroscience to analyze them. It will argue for the inclusivity of what is often supposed to be exclusive. In the end it will show how the fundamental tensions between instinct and contemplation enhance the prospect of an ecumenical view of the history of art that goes beyond current orthodoxies and often subverts them.



Professor David Freedberg

Aside from his work on Dutch, Flemish, Italian and French art, David Freedberg is best known for his work on psychological responses to art and particularly for his studies on iconoclasm and censorship (publications include *Iconoclasts and their Motives*, 1984, and *The Power of Images: Studies in the History and Theory of Response*, 1989.) His investigations in the field of the history of science are best represented by *The Eye of the Lynx: Galileo, His Friends, and the Beginnings of Modern Natural History* (2002). Much of his work reflects his deep commitment to fostering cross-disciplinary work across the humanities and the sciences. One of the pioneers of what has become known as neuroaesthetics, he has long been engaged in collaborative research and experiments on emotional and visceral responses to images and to art. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Art and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society, as well as of the Accademia Nazionale di Agricoltura and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere e Arti.

David Freedberg is Pierre Matisse Professor of the History of Art at Columbia University and Director of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America at Columbia University.