

MARCH 4, 2016
2ND ANNUAL TUFTS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE ART HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

AGAIN RUBBED SMOOTH

NEGOTIATING ERASURE &
NARRATIVE IN PALIMPSEST

With keynote address given by Dr. William Noel

The 2016 University Art History Graduate Symposium invites submissions from all disciplines regarding histories of erasure, revision, and reuse.

Originating from the Greek word *palímpsēstos*, or “**again rubbed smooth**,” the palimpsest is a site of both erasure and restoration, destruction and production. The palimpsest derived from the medieval practice of scraping and washing vellum manuscripts for reuse. Over time, erased writing would faintly resurface, resulting in an amalgam of the old text and the freshly applied ink. Today, the image of palimpsest has taken on new applications in architecture, art history, comparative literature, linguistics, and the natural sciences. Some examples include Hausmann’s modernization of Paris, contemporary graffiti culture, and the (interpretively) restored *Ecce Homo* in Spain.

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

- Narratives of identity, visibility, and diaspora
- The formation and reformation of cities
- Appropriated cultures, languages, and objects
- Psychologies of trauma
- Found footage/objects adapted for new contexts or needs
- Histories of destruction, construction, and production
- Exchanges of agency and power
- Construction of alternative histories
- Conservation and restoration practices
- Active forgetting and memory politics
- Cases of iconoclasm
- Phenomena of haunting

Please submit a 300-word abstract for a twenty-minute presentation, along with a current CV to tuftsartsymposium@gmail.com by November 15th, 2015.

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Cy Twombly image: christies.com