

Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study



Please join us for a talk by
Kimberly Rhodes, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Art History, Drew University

Modern Art in Nazi Germany

**When: Tuesday, March 29, 2016
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Where: Dorothy Young Center for the Arts,
Room 106, Drew University**

This talk will trace the trajectory of avant-garde art movements such as *Die Brücke* (The Bridge), *Der Blaue Reiter* (The Blue Rider), and Dada as they rose to prominence in early twentieth-century Germany and were subsequently labeled and exhibited as “degenerate art” in Nazi Germany. The first half of the talk will introduce the modernist movements through discussion of the work of artists such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hannah Höch. In the second half, we will consider how works by these artists and others were displayed in the Nazi “Degenerate Art” exhibition of 1937 and how the “Degenerate Art” exhibition interacted politically and aesthetically with the Nazi-sponsored “Great German Art Exhibition” of the same year.

Kimberly Rhodes is associate professor of art history at Drew University, where she teaches the New York Semester on Contemporary Art and courses on modern and contemporary European and American art. She writes about modern and contemporary visual culture and has worked as an art historian in both museum and academic settings. Her research is on Victorian and neo-Victorian art, with a focus on gender studies. She is author of the book, *Ophelia and Victorian Visual Culture*.

This talk is part III of a three-part study seminar: ***Modern Aesthetics / Nazi Aesthetics***. It will explore the way that the modern conception of art clashed with that of the German National Socialist Party. Modern art, often called modernism, stressed innovation, irony, and subversion. Nazi art, by contrast, sought to emphasize heroism, clarity, and racial superiority. By comparing these two very different aesthetic paradigms, participants will learn about the ways that art can be misused for political purposes. **The other two sessions in the three-part study seminar:**

Session I: March 15, 2016: “Churchill and Hitler: Their Literary Lives”

Session II: March 22, 2016: “The Moral Complexity of French Composers during World War II”

\$10.00 per session / \$30 for all three

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