

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: Art History Job Talk: Zsofi Valyi-Nagy (Monday April 20 @ 4:30pm)

From: Art History

Zsofi Valyi Nagy, PhD

***From Ekphrasis to Alt-Text: Image Description as Creative Access in the Age of Machine
“Imagination”***

Monday, April 20, 4:30pm

Steele 101, Scripps

We live in a hypervisual culture. With recent legislation requiring web accessibility and advances in automatic captioning using artificial intelligence (AI) models, there is greater awareness of the need for image descriptions. Originally developed for slow internet connections, alternative text (alt-text) allows those who are blind, have low-vision, or cognitive disabilities limiting screen use to access digital images via text-to-speech tools. But who is authoring these texts? An overwhelming amount of image descriptions are AI-generated, combining computer “vision” with natural language processing, wherein machines “look” at images and describe them in human-readable sentences. Humans, too, are encouraged to write alt-texts that are as objective as possible. This talk offers an alternative pathway to image description, one that learns from the discipline of art history and builds on scholar/curator Amanda Cachia’s concept of “creative access,” which goes beyond policy and protocol to embrace creativity, experimentation, and collaboration.

Zsofi Valyi-Nagy is a historian and practitioner of new media art based in Los Angeles. Her research bridges art history, media archaeology, and art practice, exploring the relationships between art, technology, gender, and disability. She received her PhD in art history from the University of Chicago and her MSt in English Language from the University of Oxford, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Getty Research Institute, 2023-2024. Since fall 2024 she has taught at Scripps College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art History. Professor Valyi-Nagy is writing the first book-length study of the digital art pioneer Vera Molnar (1924-2023); her research has been supported by the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, the DAAD, and the Fulbright and Dedalus Foundations. She was a member of the inaugural cohort of the Leonardo CripTech AI Lab and will be an artist-in-residence at Latitude in Chicago this July.

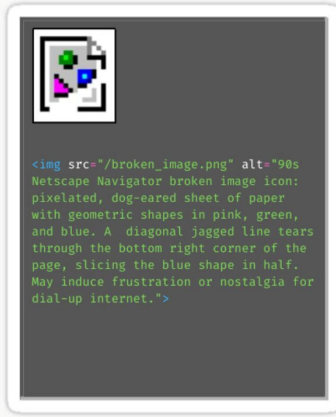


Image description: simulation of a tablet screen showing a website with a gray background and a broken image icon. HTML code in green, blue, pink, and white font which reads "

ZSOFI VALYI-NAGY

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Monday, April 20, 4:30pm
Steele Hall 101, Scripps College
Pizza & refreshments

For More Information:
arthistory@scrippscollege.edu

