

Tkach, Colleen

From: Inform
Subject: EM: Art History Job Talk: Jessy Bell (Monday April 27 @ 4:30pm)

From: Art History

The Department of Art History at Scripps College invites you to a job talk by:

Jessy Bell, PhD

The Shape of Solidarity: Art, Infrastructure, and Antifascism in Socialist Yugoslavia

Monday, April 27, 4:30pm

Steele 101, Scripps College

Pizza and refreshments will be served

This talk examines how art and infrastructure functioned as interconnected sites for producing solidarity—whether antifascist, anticolonial, or transnational—in socialist Yugoslavia. Drawing from a larger book project, it considers a range of construction and reconstruction efforts, from World War II memorial complexes and transportation networks to international relief projects. It argues that solidarity was not only an ideological claim, but also a material practice.

Focusing on memorial sites alongside broader infrastructural initiatives, it shows how artists and architects used immersive environments and embodied strategies to cultivate collective belonging. How did these sites attempt to reorient viewers toward solidarity with the dead? It further traces how such complexes, numbering in the thousands, were erected through mass participation, including youth labor brigades and transnational collaboration. In this context, construction itself emerges as a performative and experiential mode of worldmaking. By foregrounding visual culture within these expansive projects, the talk reframes infrastructure as an aesthetic and political form central to imagining collective futures.

Jessy Bell is a historian of modern and contemporary art, architecture, and urbanism, specializing in the former Yugoslav and Soviet regions and nonaligned internationalism. Her work examines art, visual culture, and the built environment under socialism, with particular attention to post-revolutionary spatial change, construction labor, rebuilding after catastrophe, and forms of solidarity. Her current book project, *Infrastructures of Solidarity: Nation-Building and Worldmaking in Socialist Yugoslavia*, explores how infrastructures such as highways and memorial networks shaped national belonging

Scripps
Art History
Candidate
Job



JESSY BELL

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