

Announcement I.

Nicolaus Copernicus University Faculty of Fine Arts
invites you to participate
at the INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
The World Through the Lens of Art, Art Through the Lens of the World
#Knowledge/Dialogue/Interdependence of Fates
Toruń, November 19-20, 2026

Conference description:

We live in an age of epistemological crisis, one that stems not from a lack of knowledge but from an overload of information and the difficulty of accessing reliable sources. In a world of post-truth, fake news, and media polarization, information often loses its significance as a structured source of knowledge about reality. Traditionally, art does not provide knowledge but gives meaning to the experience of the world; therefore, it is worth reflecting on its role in the face of the contemporary cognitive crisis, especially since contemporary artistic practices raise important questions about a reality dominated by images and the overproduction of content.

The conference aims to foster an interdisciplinary discussion on the cognitive role of art and its significance in understanding the contemporary world. Particular attention will be devoted to how art – through representation, interpretation, and the crossing of social, political, and cultural boundaries – influences the shaping of global consciousness, the interdependence of destinies, and the ethics of responsibility through visual forms of dialogue.

The event is part of the program celebrating the 80th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus University Faculty of Fine Arts in Toruń.

Suggested topics:

1. The cognitive functions of art – between theory and practice.
2. The image as a tool for cognition and philosophical reflection. The evolution of the functions and meanings of the image in ancient and contemporary art.
3. Photography as a space for cultural dialogue, collective memory, and a medium for reflection on social reality – between documentation, interpretation, and artistic creation.
4. Visual practices in the age of new media – between cognitive, emotional, and aesthetic experience and ethical responsibility.
5. Art engaged with contemporary cultural challenges and socio-political issues.
6. Art as a space for dialogue and intercultural understanding and a tool for participation – inclusivity, accessibility, egalitarianism.
7. Art in relation to the Other – empathy, encounter, difference, a posthumanist perspective.

Organizing Committee: Department of Visual Education and Art Studies, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Faculty of Fine Arts in Toruń.: Marcin Jaworski, Ph.D., Prof. at Nicolaus Copernicus University (chair), Dr. Ewa Sobczyk (secretary), Dr. Joanna Cieślukowska, Dr. Bernadeta Didkowska, Dr. Dominika Łowkajtis, Martyna Wenda, M.A.

Basic organizational information

Conference dates: November 19-20, 2026

Conference languages: Polish, English

Registration deadline: September 10, 2026

How to submit proposals and abstracts: online form at <https://forms.gle/xfMU6ArXtvcpsqSFA>

We reserve the right to select proposals.

Cost of active participation: 700 PLN; 350 PLN for doctoral students and undergraduates – covers the cost of conference materials, coffee breaks, the gala dinner, and the conference proceedings; does not include accommodation costs.

Publication in a peer-reviewed edited volume by Nicolaus Copernicus University Press is planned. We reserve the right to select submitted texts.

The composition of the Scientific Committee, the bank account number for payment, and further organizational information will be provided in the second circular.

All questions related to the conference should be directed to the email address provided.

Contact: ewa.lil.sob@umk.pl