

## **CALL FOR PAPERS:**

### **VISUALIZING THE NEGEV – A DESERT BETWEEN IMAGE AND REALITY**

#### **A Science-Art workshop:**

#### **Dialogue between Humanities and Visual Arts**

At the **Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem**

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The main theme of the workshop is the **Negev desert** and how its landscape and inhabitants have been **studied and visualized by both science and art**. Our aim is to investigate the role of visual media (pictures, maps, plans, drawings, etc.) in representing the Negev, scientifically and artistically, and to examine the way these media have transformed the public imagination.

Four main themes will be discussed in the course of the workshop:

#### **A. Visualizing a territory**

- The history of the representation of the Negev by archaeologists, travelers and artists since the 19th century. The way each period produced different representations of the physical landscape and its inhabitants and the socio-political and economic factors that informed these representations.
- Landscape photography, of both early artists and contemporary Israeli photographers.
- New technologies and the Negev: new ways to locate, to visualize and to represent.
- The "spirit of place": how do we sense, understand and represent such places? How is the landscape hidden and revealed at the intersection of art and archaeology.

#### **B. The Negev between Science, Culture and Art**

- The Negev is both a natural and a cultural landscape – part to the "Holy Land". The archaeological approach is less about the past, and more on how the contemporary mind produces its own view of the past.
- Visual media in the humanities and art: the importance of visuals in the fabric of cultural knowledge and role of visual media in communication and imagination.

#### **C. To explore, to experience and to represent**

- Exploring and visualizing a desert frontier; the role of image production in the interaction of human senses in forming a conception of place.
- Perception and translation of a site/landscape experience and its representation; shared collective methodology vs. personal experience. How do we reconstruct the past from personal and collective memories?
- Archaeologists versus artists: **translation** of a place's perception for interdisciplinary intercourse. Are the images produced by archaeologists strictly scientific? Who defines 'scientific'?

#### **D. The production of narratives about the Negev**

- Text and image in dialogue: are they complementary or opposed? Writing history and doing photography; how does each pursuit develop its own narrative of the Negev and what is the nature of the dialogue between the two?
- Narrative and fiction in science and in archaeology. Science and rationality are challenged by artistic procedure. Visual and poetic imagery are able to build a story, to create contemporary myths, or to form an invitation to meditation. Can archaeology do the same?

Please submit abstracts (300 words) to [michael.jasmin@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:michael.jasmin@mae.u-paris10.fr) by July 31, 2010.

The presentations during the workshop will be 45 minutes + 15 minutes discussion.

**Michael Jasmin:** [michael.jasmin@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:michael.jasmin@mae.u-paris10.fr)

**Yifat Thareani,** Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem: [tyifat@yahoo.com](mailto:tyifat@yahoo.com)

**Ariel Yannay-Shani,** Camera Obscura, Tel Aviv: [arielbe@gmail.com](mailto:arielbe@gmail.com)