

The Visual Science of Art Conference: History and aims

Daniele Zavagno and Rossana Actis-Grosso

Psychology Department

University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

The Visual Science of Art Conference was born in 2012 when Baingio Pinna organized a satellite meeting to the 36th European Conference on Visual Perception (ECVP) held in Alghero, Italy. Since then the conference has continued to be organized as a satellite conference to ECVP, though the two sister events are sometimes organized by different people, though in the same city. Hence, like ECVP, VSAC does not have a stable location nor a stable organization. It's flavour changes and is strongly influenced by the locations and the organizers. In 2014 it was held in Belgrade, in 2015 in Liverpool, in 2016 in Barcelona, and in 2017 in Berlin. In 2018 ECVP comes back to Italy, and will take place in Trieste.

The aims of the conference are conveniently summarized by each year organizers: "There is a growing interest in studying interactions between perception and art [...] VSAC welcomes all kinds of work and approaches, from phenomenological to biological and computational, exploring the link between the science of perception and the arts." (<http://ecvp.org/2015/sac.html>). "The study and production of Art has always fascinated both artists and scholars in equal measure throughout history. Nevertheless, in the 20th century there has been little encouragement for artists and scientists to meet and collaborate. Fortunately this state of affairs is currently changing" (<http://www.ub.edu/ecvp/about-vsac>). "Its main focus is to better connect the communities of visual scientists and artists in order to deepen our understanding of aesthetic phenomena. The VSAC is an ideal venue to debate and collaborate on all topics associated with the perception and evaluation of artworks (<https://vsac2017.org>). Summarizing, the aim of VSAC is that "of connecting the communities of visual scientists and artists to promote cross-fertilization between the two domains": open as it is to all those who are interested in art, "VSAC invites all people that connect visual perception and the arts (e.g., empirical, experimental, philosophical, phenomenological, computational approaches)" (<http://www.vsac2018.eu>).