

The Visual Turn in Sports History

A Two-Day International Conference at Burwalls, University of Bristol

13-14 June 2009

Organized by
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Rigorous analytical explorations of the intersections between visual culture and the history of sport are still relatively new, but have recently begun to attract vastly increased scholarly interest. It was only a few years ago sports historians still noted 'the invisibility of the visual', and a widespread reluctance to explore 'the deeper levels of experience which images probe'; even a 'condescension towards images'. Conversely, in disciplines that focus predominantly on the visual, sport has frequently been regarded as of secondary interest. Studies dedicated to the visual representation of the sports theme, for example, have been relatively few and far between and regarded as on the periphery of visual culture studies.

But the centrality of sport to popular culture has encouraged many scholars to begin to open up this new and exciting field. Indeed the organizers, both well-published authors in sport and visuality, are currently jointly editing a forthcoming special issue of the International Journal of the History of Sport dedicated to the visual turn in sports history. To expand further this exciting field of enquiry we will be holding a conference in Bristol in June 2009. The conference will take place at Burwalls, an outstanding example of Victorian architecture situated in five acres of beautiful grounds and in the shadow of Brunel's famous Clifton Suspension Bridge.



Speakers will include international scholars from a wide range of disciplines, including sports history, social history, art history, film history and design history.

If you would like to participate in, or attend, this event please contact Mike Huggins (Mike.Huggins@Cumbria.ac.uk) and/or Mike O'Mahony (Mike.OMahony@bristol.ac.uk), or complete the form below before 1 April 2009.

Please complete and return to:
Mike O'Mahony, History of Art Dept., 43 Woodland Rd, Bristol BS8 1UU, UK

Name Institutional affiliation

Email Address/Tel

FEE: Full £100 (includes tea, coffee and lunch)

Accommodation and dinner can be provided at an extra cost, but please note that numbers will be limited so please contact us early.