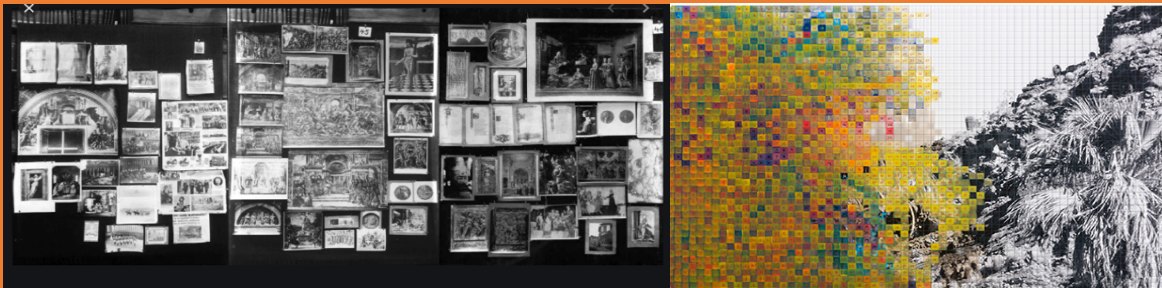


A Genealogy of Visual Forms

FROM WARBURG AND FOCILLON TO COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS



A presentation by Maria Giulia Dondero, Senior Research Associate, National Fund for Scientific Research, University of Liège, Belgium

Thursday, February 27 at 3 pm SCI 106

This talk will examine the research project of a genealogy of forms as it was conceived of in the work of Aby Warburg (1924-1929), in particular in the *Atlas Mnemosyne*, and in the book *The Life of Forms in Art* (*Vie des formes*) by Henri Focillon (1934).

These projects were left unfinished because of the difficulty of analyzing patterns in heterogenous corpora. Currently, in the age of image datasets, image processing and machine learning, the heterogeneity of corpora is no longer an obstacle. Computer Visualization approaches using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) have demonstrated their efficacy in pattern recognition in vast image sets, and the extraction of plastic features to build the signature of an image (called "Feature Vector Signature") can now be used to detect patterns in heterogenous corpora (Le Cun et alii 2015). After reviewing Warburg and Focillon's work via a genealogy of forms, Dondero will discuss several related research projects currently underway in the US and Europe.

No RSVP necessary

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