

INTRODUCTION

The team of the Culture Crossroads authors, reviewers and editors are pleased to present the latest, 19th volume of the international peer-reviewed journal *Culture Crossroads*, which this time has an unusual breadth of scope and more than twice the usual number of papers. This abundance owes to the fact that the current edition of the *Culture Crossroads* looks back on a whole series of conferences that took place in 2020 and also includes non-conference related contributions, all selected to reflect the 30th anniversary of the Latvian Academy of Culture, the institution hosting both the aforementioned conferences and the journal *Culture Crossroads*.

Among those conferences, the International Forum “Modernism in Culture, Global and Local Succession Strategies and Approaches” (04.11.2020), as well as the Baltic Drama Forum “Theatre and New Technologies and Different Perspectives” (05.11.2020), and – last but not least, the conference “Culture Crossroads XIV” plenary (2.11.2020) and break-out sessions (06.11.2020).

As always, this volume of papers offers up-to-date commentary on the connections and impacts of cultural, artistic and creative processes in national and global economy, politics and social life. As is suitable for the 30th anniversary year, the volume of papers we are presenting there is more ambitious, richer and broader than ever.

The papers in the volume present a varied and heterogeneous body of work falling into five thematic strands:

1) papers on modernism, its development trends in the first half of the XX century, interplay with totalitarianism, as well as safeguarding and reinterpretation in a variety of domains (Ullrich Kockel; Rūta Muktupāvela and Janīna Kursīte; Dita Rietuma; Līga Ulberte; Jānis Krastiņš; Jānis Kudiņš);

2) papers on Baltic drama, reflecting on two periods of upheaval – the 1990s (Zane Kreicberga) and the current pandemic transition (Lauma Mellēna-Bartkeviča), as well as the unique stage history of a children’s opera (Mstislav Pentkowsky);

3) papers on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, its discovery (Juris Urtāns), challenges (Zenta Broka-Lāce; Jana Reidla, Anu Kannike), and reinterpretation (Astra Spalvēna; Andris Kairiņš, Irina Oļevska), as well as new linked data opportunities for analysis (Liene Kalviša, Ieva Kalniņa);

4) papers on specific facets of the functioning of creative industries, namely the role of senses and emotions (Žanete Eglīte) and the transcultural history of Italian fashion and design (Dagmar Reichardt);

5) papers on intercultural communication, cross-cultural communication, and the roles of language in culture, reflected in papers on social recognition of immigrants (Nafisa Yeasmin, Waliul Hasanat & Frank Ojwang), the challenges of maintaining hybrid identities (Māra Simons), as well as two papers on linguistics – on the stylistic pattern of allusion (Anita Naciscione) and multi-modal expressions of figurative thought (Elīna Veinberga).

Taken in their entirety, these papers present a wide-ranging prospect of cultural and artistic processes, each aspect highlighting a significant facet of human creativity in the sphere of culture. The Latvian Academy of Culture extends sincere gratitude to all the authors and reviewers who have worked to make this volume a success.

We hope that each of the papers will find their dedicated and keen readers, and serve as inspiration for further research on the diverse issues presented in the volume.

Ilona Kunda,
Deputy Editor-in-chief