



DAS  
WEISSE  
HAUS



# **(IN)VISIBLE TRACES. ARTISTIC MEMORIES OF THE COLD WAR**

## **Open Call for Art Critics:**

**How to Write About Cold War Heritage  
in the Contemporary Context?**

**Mentorship: Kathrin Heinrich & Kate Sutton**

**Training dates: November 11-12, 2024**

**DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25**



# Art Criticism Training

## (In)Visible Traces: Artistic Memories of the Cold War

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As part of the Creative Europe project "(In)Visible Traces: Artistic Memories of the Cold War," BLOCKFREI, as one of the project partners, is organizing an intensive Art Criticism Training at DAS WEISSE HAUS on November 11th & 12th, 2024. This initiative aims to build the capacities of art professionals—art critics, historians, and curators—by equipping them with methodologies tailored to the creative interpretation of cultural heritage sites, as well as the historical and social backdrop of the Cold War across different European countries.

During this two-day training, two renowned mentors Kate Sutton and Kathrin Heinrich will lead sessions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the project's themes. Eight selected art critics will develop skills in critically engaging with art and cultural sites related to the Cold War period, while gaining insight into the intricate connections between cultural heritage and politics. The training will also broaden their professional networks, helping them improve the overall quality of their work.

As a key outcome, the participants, alongside the two expert mentors, will co-author articles for a publication that will be disseminated during subsequent project events and shared among their peers. This publication will provide valuable insights into art criticism related to Cold War heritage, contributing to future discussions and interpretations.

The combination of this training, the publication, and other project activities will help raise awareness of Cold War cultural heritage, promoting artistic interpretations, interventions, and creative dialogue around this significant part of Europe's shared history.

The program also encourages the mobility of young art critics and fosters the exchange of diverse national perspectives, paving the way for potential international collaborations. By empowering a new generation of professionals with the tools and knowledge to approach Cold War cultural heritage through art, the training aims to preserve and reinterpret this important era as a common European resource for artistic and cultural memory.

## Open Call for Art Critics

### *How to Write About Cold-War Heritage in a Contemporary Context?*

We invite art critics, curators, art historians, heritage researchers, and other cultural professionals from **Europe\*** to apply for a specialized training program focused on writing about Contemporary art against the backdrop of (Vienna's) Cold-War heritage like policies, monuments, and architectural and cultural sites.

Participants will enhance their skills in critically analyzing and interpreting art and cultural heritage connected to the Cold-War period. Over two days, two experts will guide the participants through a series of knowledge-sharing sessions, methodologies, and practical experiences, enhancing their writing skills in art criticism. The training will particularly focus on the intersection between

cultural heritage and politics, highlighting Cold War heritage sites as a shared European resource for artistic interpretation and collective memory.

The training is organized by BLOCKFREI organization as part of the Creative Europe project *(In)Visible Traces: Artistic Memories of the Cold War* and is co-funded by the European Union.

### **Training Details:**

- **Location:** DAS WEISSE HAUS, Hegelgasse 14, 1010 Vienna, Austria
- **Dates:** November 11-12, 2024
- **Participants:** Six Europe-based participants and two Austria-based participants will be selected
- **Covered Costs:**
  - ✓ Training fees
  - ✓ Catering during the training will be provided.
  - ✓ Accommodation in Vienna for three nights for participants traveling outside of Vienna
  - ✓ Travel reimbursement for return tickets to and from Vienna (air/train/bus), based on the participant's departing country, in line with EU Commission regulations.

### **Objectives:**

- To deepen participants' understanding of methodologies for interpreting Cold War cultural heritage in contemporary contexts.
- To enhance skills in art criticism, with a focus on the intersection of cultural heritage and politics.
- To promote Cold War cultural heritage as a shared European resource for artistic interpretation and collective memory.
- To foster international collaboration among emerging professionals.

### **Format:**

The two-day intensive training will be led by experienced art critics and lecturer mentors Kate Sutton and Kathrin Heinrich, and will feature:

- Theoretical and practical sessions
- Discussions on creative interpretations of Cold War-related art and heritage sites
- Collaboration on articles for publication

### **Target Group:**

This open call is for art critics, curators, art historians, and other professionals with a strong interest in Cold War heritage, art, and politics of memory.

The program is conducted in English and requires participants to have a high level of proficiency in the language.

**Application Process:**

To apply, please submit:

- A one-page motivational letter outlining your idea for a text that addresses a Cold War topic, a heritage site, or an artwork in Vienna (or elsewhere)
- Narrative biography (up to 1 page)

**Deadline:** October 25, 2024 (24:00 CET)

**Contact:** For questions and submissions, please email [info@blockfrei.org](mailto:info@blockfrei.org)

We look forward to your applications!

For more information about the project, please visit the page of the lead project partner, [DOCUMENTA – Center for Dealing with the Past](#).

\* Europe\* - For more detailed information on eligibility, please follow the [link](#) to the document.