Brain research describes perception as generated by »electric activity in neural networks«. However, perception, cognition and aesthetics can also be understood as different forms of human brain function in a historical-cultural context. While the pictorial turn has raised the general awareness that images are more than just sources, symbols or illustrations, research still is lacking with respect to their specific functions and cognitive performance. Between fact and artefact, images are not illustrations but are rather constructions of reality.

As instruments in the service of art and science, images demand cognitive analysis within an interdisciplinary dialogue between philosophy, psychology, art history and information technology. Is it possible to explain aesthetics and artistic knowledge with the modern scientific approach used to study visual perception?

As part of the interdisciplinary research initiative »Perceiving and Understanding« this conference will deal with these interdisciplinary issues.

Conference venue: Historisches Museum Dachauplatz 2-4, 93047 Regensburg

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Universität Regensburg 93040 Regensburg
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International Conference
30.9.–2.10.2010
30 September 2010 (Thursday)

COGNITIVE

13.30 Opening and Welcome
  Thomas Strothotte
  President of the University of Regensburg

Introduction
  Mark W. Greenlee / Christoph Wagner

Chair: Christoph Wagner (Regensburg)

14.00 Klaus Sachs-Hombach (Chemnitz)
  Mind, Language and Image

15.00 Dieter Mersch (Potsdam)
  Visual Epistemology.
  On the ›Logic‹ of Iconic Showing

16.30 Søren Kjørup (Bergen)
  Saying by Showing: On Depiction and Other Speech Acts

Chair: Rainer Hammwöhner (Regensburg)

17.30 Christoph Baumberger (Zürich)
  Art and Understanding. A Defense of Aesthetic Cognitivism

18.30 Göte Nyman (Helsinki)
  Visual Experience as a Complex Problem: Measuring the Perception and Interpretation of Visual Quality

19.30 Informal get together

1 October 2010 (Friday)

AISTHESIS

Chair: Petra Jansen (Regensburg)

9.00 Bettina Bläsing (Bielefeld)
  Expertise in Dance: Mind, Movement and Motor Skills

10.00 Guido Orgs (London)
  Watching Dance: Visual, Sensorimotor and Aesthetic Processes

11.00 Mark W. Greenlee (Regensburg)
  What can Research on Multisensory Integration and Synaesthesia tell us about Aesthetic Perception?

12.00 Oliver Elbs (Basel)
  Mapping Shifts (Droodles): Solving a neuroesthetician’s first problem

Chair: Mark W. Greenlee (Regensburg)

14.00 Joachim Denzler / Christoph Redies (Jena)
  Statistical Regularities in Aesthetic Images

15.00 Claus-Christian Carbon (Bamberg)
  On the Dynamics and Adaptivity of Aesthetic Appreciation

16.30 Nicholas Wade (Dundee)
  Squaring the Circle

Chair: Christoph Wagner (Regensburg)

17.30 Nicola Mößner (Aachen)
  Photographic Evidence and the Problem of Theory-Ladenness

18.30 John Onians (Norwich)
  Towards a Historical Cognitive Aesthetics: a Case Study in the Neuroarthistory of the Twentieth Century

2 October 2010 (Saturday)

AESTHETICS

Chair: Christian Wolff (Regensburg)

9.00 Kristóf Nyíri (Budapest)
  Gombrich on Image and Time Revisted

10.00 Christoph Wagner (Regensburg)
  The »Oculus Imaginationis« and the Implicit Representation of Movement

11.00 Raphael Rosenberg / Caroline Fuchs (Wien)
  Eye Movements and the Composition of Paintings

Chair: Mark W. Greenlee (Regensburg)

12.00 Christian Wolff (Regensburg)
  Empirically judging the aesthetics of interactive systems – a first approach

Concluding Discussion