COURTAULD INSTITUTE

Warburg, Malraux, Picasso: Atlas, Album, Archive

Thursday 3 December 2026, Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image
Friday 4 December 2026, The Warburg Institute
Saturday 5 December 2026, Courtauld Institute

Convenors: Professor Sarah Wilson and Dr Devika Singh

French Art and Thought research cluster, Courtauld Institute, University of London, in partnership with The Warburg Institute, Musée national Picasso-Paris, The British Museum, Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image, Institut Français and the Service enseignement supérieur, recherche et innovation, French Embassy, United Kingdom, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC) and the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) UK.

PICASSO MuséePicassoParis

THE WARBURG INSTITUTE | SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The British Museum

Birkbeck UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CNC centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

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Throughout 2026 events are taking place internationally to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of André Malraux, the adventurer, writer and first French Minister of Culture.

The Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, and the Courtauld Institute, University of London, together with the Musée national Picasso-Paris, are celebrating this occasion with a conference to be held on 4-5 December 2026, preceded by a film screening of Malraux's *Espoir, Sierra de Teruel* (1940) at Birkbeck on 3 December 2026.

Aby Warburg, André Malraux and Pablo Picasso were fascinated in their lifetime by the persistence and metamorphoses of images and the inheritance of world art. Today, Malraux's *musée imaginaire*, or 'museum without walls', extends to the virtual universe. The conference aims to foreground new research on these overlapping themes, while also Warburg, Malraux and Picasso as individual figures who profoundly shaped the meaning and reception of art. Bringing together an impressive range of international speakers, it will advance critical responses to their work and cover topics ranging from their relation to theatre and performance to the re-interpretation of their writings and archives as well as their continuing relevance for contemporary art and present-day image circulation in the age of AI.

Image: Goshka Macuga, *Exhibition M.*, 2019. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Image courtesy: Goshka Macuga

Thursday 3 December 2026

Pre-Conference Film Screening and Panel Discussion
Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image (BIMI), 43 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD

You are warmly invited to the UK premiere of the newly restored film *Sierra de Teruel* followed by a discussion. This is an unprecedented opportunity to watch this fully restored, historic 1938–1939 Spanish-French war film directed by French writer André Malraux and Boris Peskine with a screenplay co-written by Malraux and Mexican-Spanish novelist Max Aub. The film is based on Malraux's own 1937 novel *L'Espoir* (*Man's Hope*), inspired by his real-life experience as commander of a volunteer air squadron during the Spanish Civil War.

14.00	**Welcome** Damian Catani with Alfia Nakipbekova Birkbeck, University of London
14.05	**Anne Malraux** Restoring André Malraux's *Sierra de Teruel*
14.15	**Alfia Nakipbekova** Darius Milhaud's music for *Sierra de Teruel*
14.30	**Screening of *Sierra de Teruel (Days of Hope)*, 1938**
16.30	**Discussion**

Evening panel discussion
Courtauld Institute, Vernon Square, London WC1X 9EW

You are warmly welcomed to attend a panel discussion held at the Courtauld Institute with Donatien Grau, Goshka Macuga and Richard Wentworth. Centred on Grau's recent publication *Living Museums: Conversations with Leading Museum Directors*, the discussion will address the people, ideas, and strategies that have transformed museums into cultural landmarks.

18.00	***Living Museums*** Panel discussion with philologist Donatien Grau (Musée du Louvre), and artists Goshka Macuga and Richard Wentworth. Introductory remarks: Devika Singh. Panel chair: Sarah Wilson.
19.30	**Drinks reception** *Open to all*

Friday 4 December 2026

Conference: Day One
The Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB

9.00	**Registration opens**
9.30	**Welcome** Bill Sherman, The Warburg Institute
9.40	**Conference Introduction** Sarah Wilson and Devika Singh
10.00	**Session 1** Chair: Hans C. Hönes, University of Abderdeen **Wu Yanwu (China Academy of Art)** Tracing Astrological Metamorphoses: East Asian Cosmology and Warburg's *Bilderwanderung* in Northern Italy **Silvia Loreti (The American University of Rome)** Romeing. On Timescapes in the Album-Atlas-Archive **Youxi Chen (University of Cambridge)** Serpentine Thinking, the Power of Rhetoric in Warburg's Kreuzlingen Lecture **Giulia Zanon (Università Iuav di Venezia)** Gabriele d'Annunzio, 'Dealer of Ecstasy': Warburg's Kriegsliteratur lecture (1915) and the Battlefield of Image Survival **Discussion**
11.30	**Refreshments**
12.00–13.00	**Keynote 1** **Georges Didi-Huberman, FBA (EHESS)** From Archive to Atlas, from Images to *Denkbilder*
13.00	**Lunch** *Provided for speakers only*

14.00 **Session 2**

Chair: Flora Dennis, The Warburg Institute

Marie de Testa (Princeton University)
Apparitions and *Apparati*: The Import of the Theatrical Stage in Aby Warburg´s conception of Art History

Zoe A. Keller (Goldsmiths)
From Archetype to Anarchetype: Recalibrating Knowledge in the Eranos Archive

Martina Mazzotta (The Warburg Institute)
Aby Warburg and Max Ernst: Beyond the History of Art - with Picasso and Malraux

Yimin Xiang (Glasgow School of Art)
Panel, Box, Table: A Genealogy of the Container after Warburg

Discussion

15.30 **Refreshments**

16.00–17.00 **Keynote 2**

Glenn Lowry (Director emeritus, The Museum of Modern Art, New York)
The *musée imaginaire* in the 21st century: A Contemporary Response

18.00 **Evening programme**

For speakers only

Saturday 5 December 2026

Conference: Day Two
Courtauld Institute, Vernon Square, London WC1X 9EW, Lecture Theatre 2

9.30	**Registration opens**
9.45	**Welcome** Mark Hallett, Courtauld Institute, Cécile Debray, Musée national Picasso-Paris, and Anne Malraux **Introduction to Day Two** Sarah Wilson and Devika Singh
10.00	**Session 3** Chair: Sarah Wilson, Courtauld Institute **Damaso Randulfe (London Metropolitan University)** In the Garden There Are Images of You': Antifascist Compositions with the Disappeared **Ana Redondo Plaza (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)** The Queen of Sheba, Piero della Francesca and André Malraux: The Copy of the Arezzo Fresco as a Device for the Symbolic Activation of the *musée imaginaire* **Jelena Stojković (Oxford Brookes)** The Sculptural Thinking of Japanese Avant-Garde in the 1950s **Nicholas Friedland (Courtauld Institute)** The Voices of Stridence: Malraux, Lyotard **Discussion**
11.30	**Refreshments**
12.00	**Session 4** Chair: Hugo Daniel, Musée national Picasso-Paris **Ed Kettleborough (University of Bristol)** Warburg as Maenad: RB Kitaj and the Fate of the *musée imaginaire* **Louise Bouver-Zieleskiewicz (Aix-Marseille University)** A Moving Atlas: Hollis Frampton's Magellan and the Metahistory of Cinematic Images

Ada Naval (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
Line Dance Drawing. Drawing as Impulse in Warburg, Malraux, and Picasso

Discussion

13.00 **Lunch**

Provided for speakers only

Lunch-time screening of Malraux's Shoes (2012). Single-channel video, 42 minutes. Written and performed by Dennis Adams. Directed by Dennis Adams and Paul Colin

14.00 **Session 5**

Chair: Darren O'Donoghue, Tate archives

Francisco Prado-Vilar (University of Santiago de Compostela)
Picasso in Exile: Guernica in the Warburg Hall and the Museum without Walls

Johan Popelard (Musée national Picasso-Paris)
Picasso and Exorcism

Alba Giménez Gil (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)
The Nature of the Beast: Symbolic Afterlives of Violence in Guernica and the Spanish Cultural Imaginary

Response by artist Goshka Macuga

Discussion

15.30 **Refreshments**

16.00 **Session 6**

Chair: Devika Singh, Courtauld Institute

Mariabruna Fabrizi (ENSA Paris-Est, Université Gustave Eiffel)
Epistemics of Space: Spatialised and Distributed Cognition in Warburg, Malraux and Contemporary Digital Platforms

Emilie Goudal (Université de Lille)
'A sign of the total eclipse of History': Museum without walls, Algerian Atlas Mnemosyne and the voices of images.

Emily Butler (Courtauld Institute)
After the Imaginary Museum: Artists on Enclosure in the Age of AI

Guilherme Giufrida (MASP, São Paulo)
The Imaginary Museum's Replica: Sandra Gamarra Heshiki's Curatorial-Artistic Practice

Discussion

17.30 **Drinks reception**
Open to all

19.30 ***Exhibition M: A Re-Enactment*** **by Goshka Macuga (2026)**.
Performance, 40 min.
Swedenborg Hall, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH
Please note this is a separately ticketed event