

Visual Culture of the Baltic Exile Communities in the Aftermath of World War II

A collaborative colloquy (Homburger Gespräch 2026) under the auspices of the Böckler-Mare-Balticum-Foundation (Bad Homburg) in collaboration with the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe – Institute of the Leibniz-Association (Marburg) and the Latvian National Museum of Art (Riga)

Concept: Agnese Bergholde-Wolf, Jānis Krēsliņš, Ulrike Nürnberger, Dietmar Popp

Setting: Riga, Art Museum RIGA BOURSE (Mākslas muzejs “Rīgas Birža”)

Address: Doma laukums 6, Riga

Dates: Friday, 11. September 2026

Schedule: 9.00 AM–6.30 PM

Arrival at 9.00 AM

9.15–9.30 AM Welcome: Daiga Upeniece (Art Museum RIGA BOURSE), Ulrike Nürnberger (Böckler-Mare-Balticum-Foundation), Dietmar Popp (Herder Institute)

Revisiting the Notion of Exile and Visual Culture in Exile

9.30–9.45 AM Jānis Krēsliņš jr. (SE)

09:45–10.00 AM Reflection and Discussion

What do we know about Baltic Visual Culture in Exile?

10.00–10.15 AM Kadi Polli: Estonia

10.15–10.30 AM Elita Ansone: Latvia

10.30–10.45 AM Ilona Mažeikienė / Birutė Pankūnaitė: Lithuania

10.45–11.00 AM Reflection and Discussion

11.00–11.15 AM Coffee Break

Visual Culture in the very early Stages of Exile

11.15–11.25 AM Inese Gātere (LV): The Thematic, Stylistic, and Social Narrative of Artifacts Depicting the Lives of Interned Latvian Legionnaires in Allied Captivity from 1945 to 1946

11.25–11.45 AM Reflection and Discussion

11.45–11.55 AM Agnija Lesničenoka (LV): Collections of Latvian Exile Artists in the National Archives of Latvia: The Example of the Art Academy of Latvia Student Fraternity “Dzintarzeme”

11.55 AM–12.15 PM Reflection and Discussion

12.15–12.25 PM Triin Metsla (EE): Understanding the Possible Narratives of Refugee Art – from Self-Determination to Modern Art

12.25–12.45 PM Reflection and Discussion

Exile and the Variety of its Visual Platforms

12.45–12.55 PM: Elke Bauer / Agnese Bergholde-Wolf (DE): “I Have Never Left Latvia” (Jānis Krēsliņš sen.) and “The Annual Harvest of a Poor Lithuanian Collector in Exile” (Povilas Reklaitis) – Exile Collections at the Herder Institute

12.55–1.15 PM Reflection and Discussion

1.15–2.15 PM *LUNCH*

The Visible and the Invisible — Physical Footprints vs. That which evades the Gaze

2.15–2.25 PM Isabell Schierenbeck (SE): From Berlin to Tel Aviv: Traces of German Culture in the Cityscape

2.25–2.45 PM Reflection and Discussion

2.45–2.55 PM Maarja Merivoo-Parro (EE): What in Exile evades the Gaze?

2.55–3.15 PM Reflection and Discussion

Memory vs. Forgetting?

3.15–3.25 PM Indrė Urbelytė (LT): We had to forget... National Art Histories and the Experience of Exile (Jonas Mekas, Kazys Varnelis, NYC)

3.25–3.45 PM Reflection and Discussion

3.45–3.55 PM Liisa Kaljula (EE): Childhood Memories and Utopian Thinking. The Case of Estonian-Swedish Artist Enno Hallek

3.55–4.15 PM Reflection and Discussion

4.15–4.30 PM *Coffee Break*

Reconfiguring Home vs. Creating a new Home?

4.30–4.40 PM Martin Nõmm (EE): Home or Away – the Dilemma of Exile Art

4.40–5.00 PM Reflection and Discussion

5.00–5.10 PM Ilona Mažeikienė / Birutė Pankūnaitė (LT): The Activities of the Art School École des Arts et Métiers (1946–1950): Art Education in New Settings, Freiburg im Breisgau

5.10–5.30 PM Reflection and Discussion

Preservation vs. Unbridled Creativity

5.30–5.40 PM Marianna Auliciema (LV): No one wants your Art: Musings on Visual Culture in the Collection of the Latvians Abroad - Museum and Research Centre and beyond

5.40–6.00 PM Reflection and Discussion

6.00–6.10 PM Andra Silapētere (LV): A Wish to turn Lived Exile into narratable History

6.10–6.30 PM The day's final reflections

DINNER 7.00 PM – for invited guests

Saturday, 12. September 2026, 10.00 AM

Guided Tour through the exhibition “Raimonds Staprāns. Architecture of Quietude” by Elita Ansone, Latvian National Museum of Art, Jaņa Rozentāla laukums 1

Please register for the conference: geschaeftsstelle@boeckler-mare-balticum-stiftung.de