

# Science and Its Histories

September 24 & 25, 2010

**E**veryone talks about "big picture" histories of science, but-to paraphrase Mark Twain-hardly anyone does anything about it. This conference explores new ways of broadening the scope of the historical investigation of the sciences. What is the "science" in the history of science? What kinds of problems arise when we associate science with modernity? How can science be viewed over broad spans of place and time?

*Abstraction* (2006) by Fritz Rauh (1920- ). Watercolor on paper, 22 ¼ x 30 in.  
Courtesy of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California; gift of the artist.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

8:30 **Registration & Coffee**

9:30 **Welcome** Robert C. Ritchie (The Huntington)

**Remarks** Robert E. Kohler (University of Pennsylvania) and  
Kathryn M. Olesko (Georgetown University)

**Session 1 The Nature of What We Call Science**

**Moderator:** Bruce T. Moran (University of Nevada, Reno)

Jan Golinski (University of New Hampshire)  
"Is it Time to Forget Science?"

Peter Dear (Cornell University)  
"Science is Dead, Long Live Science"

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Session 2 Science History across Time and Space, I**

**Moderator:** Margaret Garber (California State University, Fullerton)

Harold J. Cook (Brown University)  
"Moving About and Finding Things Out"

Thomas H. Broman (University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
"Transparency, Expertise, and the Public in Enlightenment Societies"

**Session 3 Science History across Time and Space, II**

**Moderator:** Matthew Hersch (University of Pennsylvania)

Fa-ti Fan (State University of New York, Binghamton)  
"Outside the Boxes: Historiography of Science and Area Studies"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

9:00 **Registration & Coffee**

9:30 **Session 4 Science and Modernity—The Modernity of Science**

**Moderator:** Tara Nummedal (Brown University)

Lynn K. Nyhart (University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
"Scaling Up: Generalizing the 'Modern' Natural History Sciences, 1890-1950"

Paul Forman (National Museum of American History)  
"Modernity Entailed Disciplinarity, Post-modernity Entails Anti-disciplinarity"

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Session 5 Broadening the Horizon**

**Moderator:** Ted McCormick (Concordia University)

Theodore Porter (University of California, Los Angeles)  
"Thin Description and the Power of Science"

James Endersby (University of Sussex)  
"Talking to Ourselves?"

**Session 6 Closing Remarks**

Kathryn M. Olesko and Robert E. Kohler  
"Science and Its Histories"

*This conference is funded by  
The Dibner History of Science Program  
at The Huntington*

# Science and Its Histories

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference registration and meals by reservation only. No confirmation will be sent.

Conference registration fee.....\$25.00  
(Graduate students free)

Buffet lunch (September 24)..... \$ 16.50

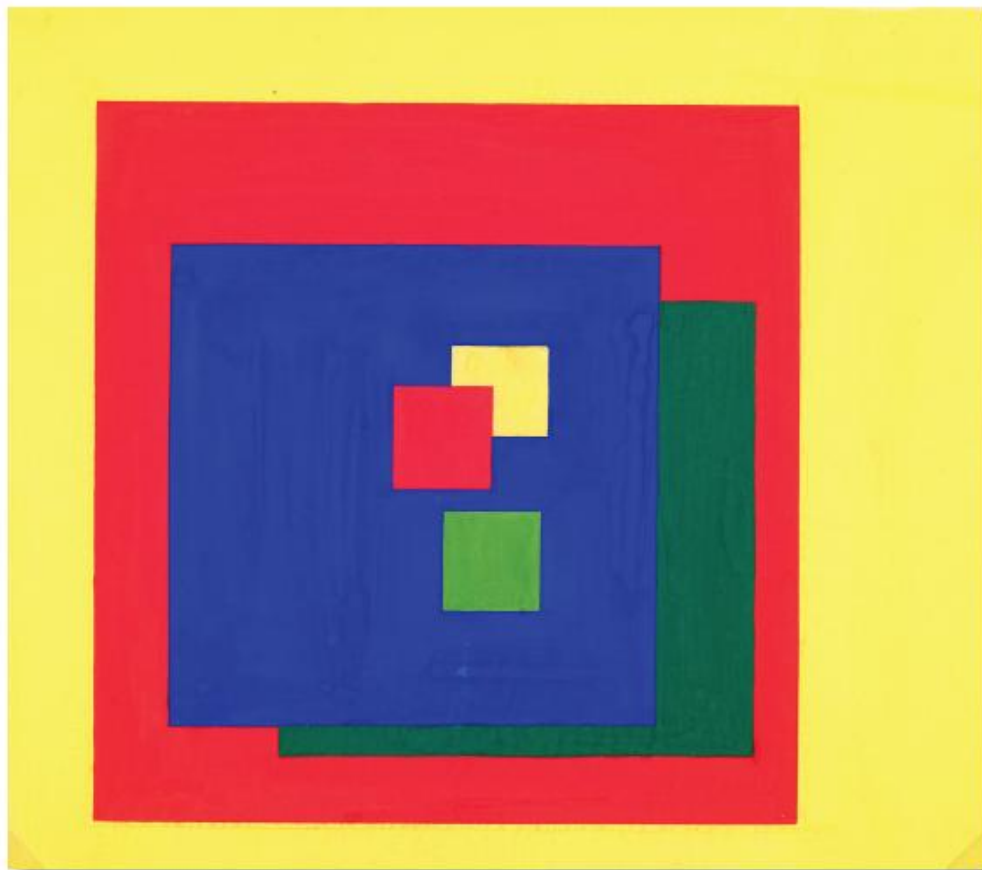
Buffet lunch (September 25)..... \$ 16.50

TOTAL ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian (check one)  Yes  No

Please return form and check payable to "The Huntington" by September 17, 2010.

Mail to Susi Krasnoo, The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd. , San Marino, CA 91108 • Ph: 626.405.3432 • Email: skrasnoo@huntington.org



*Squares* (n.d.) by Oskar Fischinger (1900-1967). Graphite and tempera on paper, 11 ½ x 12 ½ in. Courtesy of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California; purchased with funds from the Virginia Steele Scott Foundation.