

# APPRECIATION OR APPROPRIATION OF THE ARTS? AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES

AN EVENING PANEL WITH  
JENNIFER C. LENA AND HANS ABBING

This panel with two of the most interesting international scholars of the sociology of the arts will focus on the question whether we are moving towards politically democratizing and socially equalizing the arts. Can the arts help to level out social differences? Does an equalization of cultural and artistic tastes ensure inclusion in view of either standardizations or parallel diversifications of lifestyles? Both scholars have recently published significant books about these questions.

Moderated by **Volker Kirchberg**, they will answer these and more questions about the compensatory or divisive social effects of arts.

**Jennifer C. Lena** is Associate Professor of Arts Administration at Teachers College, and the Department of Sociology, Columbia University. She is co-editor of the journal *Poetics*, and co-editor of a book series, *Culture and Economic Life*. She is past Chair of the Sociology of Culture Section of the American Sociological Association. Lena holds an MA, MPhil, and PhD in Sociology from Columbia University, and a BA from Colgate University. In her 2019 book "Entitled: Discriminating Tastes and the Expansion of the Arts," Lena points out that despite a broadening of elite tastes, the arts' social function to fortify social status is still well in place. A new appreciation of experimental and non-legitimate folk, vernacular, and popular arts is less a democratic appreciation but an appropriation by and for a cosmopolitan elite.



**Hans Abbing** is a visual artist and a scholar in economics. He is also Emeritus Professor in Art Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, and teaches Cultural Economics at Erasmus University of Rotterdam. In his 2019 book "The Changing Social Economy of Art – Are the Arts Becoming Less Exclusive?," Abbing posits a different view to Lena. Today, and especially in Europe, artists often reject commerce and entrepreneurship, and demand less exclusiveness. In addition, artistic production emphasizes the use by different and not only established users. For Abbing, the established arts have indeed become less exclusive, and art organizations are now more oriented towards non-elitist visitors.



**FEBRUARY 13, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**ROOM: C 40.704**

→ THIS EVENING PANEL IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "GROOVE THE CITY 2020 – CONSTRUCTING AND DECONSTRUCTING URBAN SPACES THROUGH MUSIC" AT THE LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY OF LÜNEBURG. HOWEVER, THIS PANEL SESSION IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL ACADEMIC PUBLIC; THERE IS NO NEED TO BECOME A VISITOR TO THE WHOLE CONFERENCE.



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