***The Mediterranean of the artists***

***A critical modernity, 1880-1945***

**Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH (Rethymno, Greece)**

**10-11 October 2019**

Contrary to the canonical history of a modernity of essentially northern origin, this conference aims at redrawing an artistic geography where the “south” would no longer play the conventional subaltern role, but the far more stimulating one of an active alterity in a diverse and multipolar space.

The chronological limits envisaged – 1880–1945 – take into account the widespread presence of a Mediterranean thought of the arts, be they highbrow or lowbrow, fixed to the avant-garde horizon or seeking their “future alle spalle” (Pirani 1998), exalting a universalist humanist ideal or pledging allegiance to the imagined third way of fascisms. Drawing on the roots of a popular or national culture, these modernities are characterized by a desire to be reconciled with a reconstructed tradition.

Is it possible to better define and historicize the vague notions of “Mediterranean South”, “Latinity”, “Mediterraneanity”, Greco-Latin West, “Romanity” or “Greekness”? Which artists, which creations, which “mediators” – art critics, journal *animateurs*, translators – are involved in the production of these images and discourses?

Critical re-readings of national narratives and of the interplay of representations encourage us today to verify the heuristic potentialities of the notion of the Mediterranean in the field of art history.

**Conference Direction:**

Rossella Froissart (Aix-Marseille Université, TELEMMe), Jérémie Cerman (Centre André Chastel / Sorbonne Université), Yves Chevrefils-Desbiolles (Institut Mémoires de l’édition contemporaine, Caen).

**Organising Committee**

Rossella Froissart (Aix-Marseille Université, TELEMMe), Jérémie Cerman (Centre André Chastel / Sorbonne Université), Yves Chevrefils-Desbiolles (Institut Mémoires de l’édition contemporaine, Caen), Gelina Harlaftis (Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH / University of Crete), Poppy Sfakianaki (Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH / University of Crete).

**Scientific Committee**

Evgénios D. Matthiopoulos (Institute for Mediterranean Studies, FORTH / University of Crete), Maria-Grazia Messina (Università degli studi di Firenze), Isabel Valverde Zaragoza (Universitat Pompeu Fabra-Barcelona), Marie-Paule Vial (Conservateur en chef du Patrimoine honoraire, Marseille), Pierre Pinchon (Aix-Marseille Université, TELEMMe).