



SRII SPRING LECTURE SERIES 2019

CLASSICISM(S) & ORIENTALISM(S)

February 4, 2020, 19:00

Istiklal Caddesi 247 (Beyoğlu – Tünel)

Olof Heilo

Istanbul

Prometheus Unbound: Classicism and Orientalism as Projections of Continuity and Change

The turn of the century 1800 does not only mark a major upheaval in European history following the political repercussions of the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars, but also a major shift in European perceptions of historical continuity and change with consequences for popular imagination of the present, the past, the self and the other. As Classical antiquity in its Greek as well as Roman incarnations was appropriated by liberal and nationalistic movements especially in Germany and France to create linear narratives about historical destiny, the Orient was increasingly pushed out of the European narrative as the epitome of something foreign, unnatural and tyrannical. However, in itself this development was far from fated and linear, and notable examples of music, literature and art in the period indicate how perceptions of the Orient and Classical remained intertwined with a world in search of a modern identity. In this opening lecture to the SRII spring series on Classicism(s) and Orientalism(s), the SRII deputy director Olof Heilo will offer some introductory reflections at how the two concepts changed and developed against a background of political and cultural (dis)orientation.

Admission only after registration to event@srii.org.tr !