

# *The Arts at Risk*

**Rosalind E. Krauss**

## **2025 Balzan Prize for the History of Contemporary Art**

**Balzan GPC Adviser:** Tristan Weddigen

**Project Director:** Rosalind Krauss

**Principal Investigator and Deputy Director:** Eileen Gillooly

**Affiliated institution:** The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University

**Period:** 2027-2028

Rosalind E. Krauss is currently University Professor at Columbia University.

### **Description**

The *Arts at Risk* research project funded by her Balzan Prize addresses what it means to live in moments when governments hinder, inhibit, or censor artistic production. Although the current moment in US history is witnessing heavy governmental pressure on cultural production to conform to the ideological leanings of those in power, such pressure is, of course, neither new nor distinctive to the times and should therefore concern researchers across the spectrum of the arts, humanities, and other fields of study in which the well-being of individuals and societies is of central interest. The totalization and submission of the arts to the ruling powers have wide resonance, opening onto both juridical and societal orders. Such conditions might lead to rich and productive research.

The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University (SOF/Heyman) thus seeks applications for year-long residential fellowships from early-career scholars and artists researching the literary, historical, ethical, political, and/or juridical dimensions of governmental constraints on the cultural production of citizens. Applications from scholars and artists whose research will benefit from participating in both the formal and informal opportunities for scholarly exchange that this cross-disciplinary community offers are especially welcome. The SOF/Heyman expects to appoint two or three Balzan Fellows to join the community of postdoctoral scholars at the [Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities](#) over the course of the next three years, beginning in 2027-2028.

Balzan Fellows will work with their colleagues at the SOF/Heyman Center to host an international symposium focusing on the results of their enquiries, with the expectation of publishing those results online and in printed form.

### **Administration**

The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities (SOF/Heyman) will administer the Balzan Fellowship. Dr. Eileen Gillooly, Executive Director of the SOF/Heyman, will serve as the Principal Investigator on the grant and as the Deputy Director of the Balzan Fellowship.

**Eligibility**

Scholars with PhD (or disciplinary equivalent) in any field of study (e.g., law, philosophy, economics, political science, art history, literature, etc.) so long as humanistic thinking (which values interpretation, empathic engagement, imagination, analysis, critique, and self-reflection) are central to the proposed project. Artists who advance in the vetting process may be asked to submit examples of previous written work.

Fellows will be appointed for one-year terms as Research Scholars (Balzan Fellows) at the Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University.