

Workshop with [Peter Bengtsen](#)

KU Linz, 16.12.2017, 10 am to 6 pm

The day began with a morning session in which Bengtsen gave a presentation entitled *Street Art – An Introduction*. The talk, which was in part based on his 2014 book [The Street Art World](#), discussed some of the central characteristics of street art and the multiple definitions of the meaning of the term “street art”. Recent developments, such as the removal and attempted sale of artworks from the street, were also addressed. The talk further focused on how street art may influence how people perceive and use urban public space.

At the end of the morning, Bengtsen discussed one of his current research projects, which focuses on environmental street art. The main purpose of the project is to investigate how street art can influence the way we think about the environment and our relationship with nature. This part of the session falls within the field of visual ecocriticism. A central point of this part of the presentation was that while products like information campaigns and documentaries based on research conducted within the natural sciences are useful for transmitting facts about environmental challenges, social sciences and the humanities – including art history and visual studies – potentially have an important role to play, when it comes to understanding how environmental issues are framed on an emotional level. This understanding can contribute to effectively creating change in the way people relate to the environment.

The day ended with an extensive walk and discussion at the [Mural Harbor](#), the area in Linz devoted to mural and urban art. The workshop was funded by the teaching staff mobility program of Erasmus+.