

OPEN CALL



for UNIMA SYMPOSIUM : BORDERS

/ **UNIMA SYMPOSIUM**
MAY 22–23, 2025
Chuncheon, Korea

/ **Submission Deadline**
JANUARY 1, 2025

/ **How to Apply**
Submit via email to:
unimakorea@gmail.com
research@unima.org





UNIMA Korea announces the open call for the UNIMA Symposium : *Borders – Puppetry Unborders*

This symposium is hosted as part of the 2025 UNIMA Congress and Chuncheon World Puppet Festival (<https://www.unima.org/en/congress-2025/>)

Borders are physical, societal and conceptual places where one thing ends and another begins (Laine 2016), or in some cases, they offer a liminal space of between-ness where identities are blurred. Borders therefore offer spaces where identities can be questioned or challenged; they can become polymorphic (Burridge et al 2017), where new relationships and frameworks can be negotiated or played with. Border art itself has arisen as a means to explore this ambiguity and uncertainty (Gómez-Peña 1996). Borders can be frontiers, partitions, enclosures, edges and barriers but can also be openings, opportunities, adventures, fringes and playgrounds. Borders draw boundaries, which can frequently be seen as limitations and/or restrictions. On the other hand, they are often useful as a means to define artistic fields. This can be of cultural and political importance, but whilst borders offer definitions, they are also exclusionary.

This symposium will address the question of borders in puppetry art: how can and do puppets, animated objects and related animants (Waszkiel 2015) question, fracture, displace and transgress borders? When and where has puppetry worked alongside or in collaboration with diverse arts practices and forms to blur the boundary line of the border? How has the terminology of puppetry crystallised and aided academic and practical exploration of the form whilst also creating distance from other performance practice?

More specifically, how does puppetry address the borders of the body in redefining material relationships within contemporary corporeal practice in which the body of the human is decentred? And in an age of increasing ecological awareness, how is material reimagined in new relationality between puppets, objects and nature?



We invite proposals that explore borders within puppetry arts

including, but not limited to, the following themes

- * Borders between animated figure and human
- * The transgression of borders within animated objects
- * Relationships between art, ecology, and puppetry arts practice which explore new boundaries, or none at all
- * Explorations of migrant puppetry, historical or contemporary, which crosses borders
- * Contemporary developments in the relationship between puppetry, dance, opera, physical and live theatre, text, painting, installation, and performance
- * Borders between art and life: autobiographical puppetry performance
- * The evolution of popular puppetry figures across borders, in relation to decolonised narratives
- * The decentering of the anthropomorphic within puppetry
- * Puppetry, nation, gender, religion, and race in relation to questions of border identities
- * Animated objects within critical border studies as a dynamic process of differentiation and reconfiguration; borderscapes within puppetry
- * Puppetry in relation to maps, journeys, departures, and arrivals which are framed by notions of bordering
- * Discussions of puppetry terminology and its development as borders shift within the arts

Accepted presentation formats:

- * **Presentation length:** 20 minutes
- * **Languages:** Korean and English
- * **Formats:** Formal academic papers or presentations of arts practice.



How to Submit

* Submission deadline: January 1, 2025 at midnight (CET)

If you wish to contribute to the symposium, please carefully read the open call guidelines and submit an abstract (up to 300 words), a brief bio (up to 150 words), the title of your presentation, and your preferred format using the form provided below.

Email Subject: [UNIMA SYMPOSIUM] *Presentation Title*

Recipients: unimakorea@gmail.com, research@unima.org

Email Format:

- Name
- Affiliation
- Symposium Proposal Format: Formal academic papers / Presentations of arts practice
- Brief Bio: (up to 150 words) (written in the email body or as an attachment)
- Presentation Proposal Title
- Presentation Proposal Description: (up to 300 words) (written in the email body or as an attachment)

Timeline

- └─ *Open Call Published: October 7, 2024*
- └─ *Deadline for Submission: January 1, 2025*
- └─ *Notification of Participation: February 1, 2025 (*subject to schedule changes)*
- └─ *Date of the Symposium: May 22-23, 2025*

The symposium will be held in both Korean and English.
Contributions made to the symposium will be considered for publication following the event.

This symposium is organized in cooperation with UNIMA Korea and the UNIMA Research Commission.
For inquiries, please contact: unimakorea@gmail.com and research@unima.org