

Abstract: Fritz Saxl: an art historian's understanding of history.

For Saxl, looking at art meant more than interpreting an image; it necessitated the bringing together of word and image, meaning and form. For this Viennese art historian to see, understand and interpret a work of art was an act of cultural memory, the hallmark of Aby Warburg's method. This analysis of three articles on historiography by Saxl sheds light on his working methods and understanding of writing history. Presenting the historical context, developments, discontinuities and metamorphoses of a work of art was the goal of intellectual history in general; for Saxl in particular 'the multiple character of history', which guided him all his life in his scholarly quest to fathom and better understand the human condition, was his reason for writing it.

Keywords: Fritz Saxl; Warburg Institute; Kunstgeschichte, Methodik

Schlagworte: Fritz Saxl; Warburg Institut: Art History, methodology