

Tatiana Smoliarova (University of Geneva)
The Anachronistic Image: On Diachronic Illustration

My paper considers illustration as a “basic” form of coexistence between word and image, focusing on theoretical moments when its complementary rather than duplicative function is emphasized. I revisit Blaise de Vigenère’s preface to his 1578 translation of Philostratus’s *Images*, Alexei Olenin’s note “The Significance of Drawings” for an unrealized illustrated edition of Derzhavin’s poetry in the 1790s, and Yuri Tynianov’s 1923 essay “Illustrations.” If, as Mario Praz suggested in *Mnemosyne*, cultural history can be told as a relay between painters and poets, can we illustrate the literature of one era with the imagery of another? What happens when eighteenth-century poems meet twentieth-century paintings or photographs? Through several examples of such cross-temporal pairings, I explore how diachronic illustration reshapes reading, reveals latent iconographic structures, and tests the limits of historical appropriateness in the dialogue between visual and verbal arts.