The work of the German-American political theorist Hannah Arendt is widely acknowledged in contemporary social and political debates, yet her unique understanding of the inter-relationship between cultural practice and the polis has been largely overlooked. “The Crisis in Culture: Its Social and Its Political Significance” published in 1961, was Arendt’s contribution to the debates of her time concerning avant-garde and kitsch, high and low culture. This fiftieth anniversary serves as an occasion to take up this text, explicate and elaborate upon it, bringing Arendt’s ideas into dialogue with the questions faced in contemporary thinking on art and politics.

Following a seminar in London and a reading group in Berlin, GOLEB is pleased to host a series of reading sessions and presentations as the Amsterdam component of this commemorative project.