

## Photography, Writing, Letterpress (Marburg, 13–14 Mar 19)

Philipps-Universität Marburg, »Dekanatssaal« (R. 00019), Gutenbergstraße 18, 35032 Marburg, Mar 13–14, 2019

Registration deadline: Mar 10, 2019

Daniel Bühler

### Photography, Writing, Letterpress Workshop

Although both being visual media, printed texts and photographs are generally perceived as being very different, if not opposed, in character. Print is seen as a standardized and easily reproducible form of writing; writing, in turn, is considered as a convention-based durable translation of speech, of thoughts and observations into an abstract visual code, most often used as a subjective form of expression. Photography, on the other hand, is understood as a physical imprint of light, as a perceptually accessible trace of the scene it depicts, and is therefore seen, at least to a certain extent, as a medium of realism, truth and objectivity. However, both media appear together so often that writing and photography seem to complement each other. Photographic pictures may act as an illustration of what is written or writing may act as an ›anchor‹ (Barthes) that helps to ›read‹ the trace in the photograph. Especially the presumed fragmentary status of photography as a cut from a spatial and temporal continuum seems to call for the companionship of writing again and again – particularly on the pages of print media: in books, magazines, catalogues, etc. On the printed page, the letterpress is not only a site of verbal discourse, but, by connecting pictures with a certain arrangement of the typeface, the layout may confer pictorial qualities to writing. This complex relationship and its range of phenomena renders scientific research on this topic not only appealing, but also extremely challenging.

The workshop encourages an interdisciplinary exchange in order to discuss possible answers to the primary question how this relationship can be addressed methodologically. The workshop will set forth the different methodologies, outlining both disciplinary and individual avenues of approach, and will thus show the foundations of the specific researcher's thinking about this topic. The manifold inter- and multimedial phenomena that appear at the intersections of photography, writing and print find their place alongside the diversity of methods. Examples of these phenomena will be taken from photomontage, the photo-novel, advertising, the illustrated press, captions, photo albums, cinéroman and photocomics.

If you wish to participate, please send an e-mail to [journale@staff.uni-marburg.de](mailto:journale@staff.uni-marburg.de) to receive the text reader and to register for the workshop.

The workshop is organized by Deutsches Dokumentationszentrum für Kunstgeschichte – Bil-

darchiv Foto Marburg and subproject 5 of the DFG research unit 2288 »Journal Literature. Rules of Format, Visual Design, and Cultures of Reception«.

Dr. Vincent Fröhlich  
Prof. Dr. Hubert Locher  
Prof. Dr. Jens Ruchatz

## PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 13.03.2019

13:30–13:45

Registration

13:45–14:00

Welcome & Opening Remarks

14:00–15:30

Andrés Mario Zervigón (New Brunswick)

The ›Third Something‹ Drawn from Photography and Text

Respondent: Sarah Edith James (Frankfurt a. M.)

16:00–17:30

Paul Fyfe (Raleigh)

Photography, Periodicals, and the Recombinant Visual Field

Respondent: Joachim Zieber (Zürich)

18:00–19:30

Vincent Fröhlich / Jens Ruchatz (Marburg)

Defragmenting / Fragmenting. Constellating Photography and Letterpress in Illustrated Magazines Around 1900

THURSDAY, 14.03.2019

9:30–11:00

Jan Baetens (Leuven)

Words In / On Pictures

Respondent: Margarethe Szeless (Wien)

11:30–12:30

Hubert Locher (Marburg)

Printed Text as Context: Photographs and the Question of Context Specificity

Venue:

Philipps-Universität Marburg

FB 04 | Psychologie  
»Dekanatssaal« (R. 00019)  
Gutenbergstraße 18  
35032 Marburg

Contact:  
Sabine Wirth, M.A.  
journale@staff.uni-marburg.de

Reference:

CONF: Photography, Writing, Letterpress (Marburg, 13-14 Mar 19). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 22, 2019 (accessed Sep 17, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/20226>>.