

Venus as Muse – Figurations of the Creative (Köln, 18 – 20 Jan 12)

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Tagungsraum Seminargebäude, Universität zu Köln, Weyertal 59 (Rückgebäude), 3. Stock, 50937 Köln, Jan 18–20, 2012

Ivanka Klein, Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Universität zu Köln

Venus as Muse – Figurations of the Creative
Conference – 18.-20.01.2012

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata
Center for Advanced Studies
University of Cologne
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
50923 Cologne, Germany

In cooperation with
Zentrum für Medienwissenschaften
University of Cologne

»How is Venus born from the sea, how is time born from the noisy heaven? How are forms born from the formless?« asks French philosopher Michel Serres in *Genesis*, where he relates questions about the genesis of forms from a universal chaos to the figure of Aphrodite|Venus and the creation myth of her birth from the sea. Although Aphrodite|Venus has been worshipped, predominantly, as a beautiful goddess of love, she has also embodied different forms of creativity, such as divine, natural, sexual, and artistic. Accordingly, she does not only incorporate concepts of beauty and love, but figures as a goddess of creativity, sexuality, and fertility and has often been venerated as a muse.

The conference seeks to address concrete cultural figurations of Aphrodite|Venus and the different conceptualizations of creativity these figurations both manifest and transform. These conceptualizations are contoured by way of cultural comparisons with non-Western figurations of creativity – with »Sisters of Venus« (Joe J. Heydecker).

A special focus lies on different media of representation, such as literature, film, and the visual arts.

Program:

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Tagungsraum Seminargebäude

Chair: Jürgen Hammerstaedt

19.30 Elizabeth Asmis (Chicago) Opening Lecture. Venus and the Passion for Renewal in

Lucretius' Poem ›On the Nature of Things‹

Reception

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Tagungsraum Seminargebäude

Chair: Stefan Grohé

09.00 Günter Blamberger (Cologne) Welcome Address

Sebastian Goth (Cologne) Introduction

Visual Arts

09.45 Peter Seiler (Berlin) Venus in der italienischen Kunsttheorie der frühen Neuzeit

10.30 Coffee Break

10.45 Ekkehard Mai (Cologne) Manet – Cabanel – Cézanne. Die mehrfache Fruchtbarkeit der Venus

11.30 Jennifer Shaw (Rohnert Park, CA) The Figure of Venus. Rhetoric of the Ideal from Cabanel to Claude Cahun

12.15 Lunch Break

Literature

Chair: Anja Lemke

13.30 Tom Conley (Harvard) Rimbaud's Venus Backwards

14.15 Colin Gardner (Santa Barbara) Samuel Beckett's ›Peephole‹ Venus. Re-Sexualization, The Oral Mother, and the Masochist Contract in ›Eh Joe‹, ›Ghost Trio‹ and ›...but the clouds...‹

15.00 Coffee Break

15.15 Hanjo Berressem (Cologne) The Transit of Venus

16.00 Rudolf Drux (Cologne) »Gefährtin beim Schreiben der Verse«. Über die poetologische Bedeutung der »hochgebenedeiten Göttin« Venus bei Heinrich Heine

Friday, January 20, 2012

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata

Film|media|Theory

Chair: Peter W. Marx

09.00 Laurence Rickels (Karlsruhe) Venus Barbata

09.45 Barbara Vinken (Munich) Venus à rebours

10.30 Coffee Break

10.45 Elisabeth Bronfen (Zurich) Cleopatra's Venus

11.30 Patricia MacCormack (Cambridge|Chelmsford) Venusian Queer Ecosophy

12.15 Lunch Break

Sisters of Venus

Chair: Jan Söffner

13.30 Juliette Harriison (Birmingham) Isis and Venus in Egypt and Beyond

14.15 Wilhelm Heizmann (Munich) Freyja, Venus des Nordens

15.00 Coffee Break

15.15 Tao Jian (Berlin) Nüwa – die chinesische Schwester der Venus

16.00 Almut-Barbara Renger (Berlin) »The Tao of Venus: From Aphrodite to Kuan Yin«. Venus und

ArtHist.net

ihre Schwestern in Esoterikkulturen seit Helena Blavatsky

Concept: Günter Blamberger, Sebastian Goth, Hanjo Berressem

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Venue: Tagungsraum Seminargebäude, University of Cologne|January 18-19

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Center for Advanced Studies, Weyertal 59 (Back Building), 3rd Floor|January 20

Reference:

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