Botany and the Visual Arts, 1700 - present (UAAC, Montreal, 1-3 Nov 2012)

Montreal, Canada, Nov 1–03, 2012
Deadline: Jun 4, 2012

Nina Amstutz, University of Oregon

Concodia University, Montreal, November 1-3, 2012

Deadline: June 4, 2012

Call for papers for a panel at the Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC-AAUC) Annual Conference

Cross-pollinations: Botany and the Visual Arts, 1700 to the Present

This session explores intersections between botany and the visual arts since 1700. Plants have held iconographic significance since the Middle Ages, serving as traditional Christian allegories or as more abstract symbols in the Romantic period. Have the botanical sciences, such as phytognomy or Linnaean taxonomy, contributed to the symbolic charge of particular plants? Vegetation has similarly played an ongoing role in the decorative arts, inspiring motifs as diverse as arabesques to the wallpaper patterns of the Arts and Crafts Movement. How has vegetal ornament engaged with the expanding repertoire of botanical illustrations supplied by imperial expeditions? The eighteenth century also witnessed a major shift from a mechanistic to an organic paradigm of the creative mind. Did the study of plant growth and procreation provoke theories of vegetable genius? This session invites proposals across mediums and cultures that consider how botany has influenced the subjects of art, artistic practice, and concepts of artistic generation. Papers that investigate how the arts have shaped knowledge of the vegetable kingdom are also welcome.

Session Chair:
Nina Amstutz, University of Toronto

Please email abstracts (250 words) and a short bio to Nina Amstutz at nina.amstutz@utoronto.ca

Membership to the UAAC-AAUC required for conference participation.

http://www.uaac-aauc.com/en/uaac-conference

Reference:
CFP: Botany and the Visual Arts, 1700 - present (UAAC, Montreal, 1-3 Nov 2012). In: ArtHist.net, May 14, 2012 (accessed Nov 20, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/3278>.