

## Plant Lives and Beyond (Berlin/online, 4-8 Nov 24)

4A\_Lab Academy, Berlin, Nov 4-08, 2024

Natalie Arrowsmith

Ecological Entanglements across Collections – Plant Lives and Beyond.

A collaboration between Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut and Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz.

The interdisciplinary 4A\_Lab Academy "Ecological Entanglements across Collections – Plant Lives and Beyond" takes place from 4-8 November 2024 in collaboration with the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK). The academy builds on the ecocritical turn in the humanities and explores the role of plant life in artistic and aesthetic practices, human knowledge production, and theoretical critical thinking across histories, communities, and geographies. Through a series of panels, lectures, workshops, collection visits, and performances, the academy invites participants to collectively (re)think human entanglements with vegetal and non-human life, in dialogue with the collections of the SPK.

### Program

Events and lectures will take place on-site, are open to the public, and will be mostly accessible online via pre-registration.

Events with a limited number of participants are marked \* Please register.

Monday, 4 November 2024

Forschungscampus Dahlem, Foyer

10.00

Welcome & Introduction to the Academy by KHI & SPK

Barbara Göbel (Director, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, SPK, Berlin) and Hannah Baader (4A\_Lab/Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

### WORKSHOP

Ecological Entanglements and Aesthetic Practices: Reassessing Discourses, Imaginations, and Common Sense

10.15

Introduction

Hannah Baader (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

10.30

Giovanni Aloï (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)

Reconfiguring the Botanical Gaze: Overcoming Plant Blindness to Embrace Rewilding

Moderation and Discussion: Hannah Baader (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

11.15

Anna Blume (State University of New York, FIT)

Maya Cloud Forests and Muybridge Photographs: A Study of Root Memory and the Optical Unconscious

Moderation and Discussion: Julia Voss (Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin/Leuphana University, Lüneburg)

12.30 Lunch Break

13.30

Peter J. Schneemann (Universität Bern)

The Empty Lot: Of Remediating Brownfields and Resisting Vegetation

Moderation and Discussion: Linn Burchert (Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich)

14.15

Etienne Benson (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

Aesthetic Impact Assessment, 1949/1969

Moderation and Discussion: Gerhard Wolf (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00

Presentation

Thiago Lopes da Costa Oliveira (Research Fellow Ethnologisches Museum, SPK, Berlin)

Curating and Creating Relations between Lived Worlds: A Practice-Oriented Methodology for Museum Engagements with Indigenous Communities from Amazonia

Connect – Comprehend – Communicate: Amazonia as a future laboratory |

Vernetzen – Verstehen – Vermitteln: Amazonien als Zukunftslabor

Moderation: Patricia Rahemipour (Institut für Museumsforschung, Berlin)

17.00

Lecture

Monica Gagliano (Southern Cross University, Lismore)

Ecological Wisdom for a Collective Future: If We Listen, Plants Will Teach Us

Moderation and Discussion: Julia Voss (Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin/Leuphana Universität, Lüneburg)

18.00

Reception

Welcome by Hermann Parzinger (President, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz)

19.00

Forschungscampus Dahlem, Lecture Hall

LECTURE PERFORMANCE

Holding Patterns; An Archive of Atmospheres

An artistic research-exchange project made by artists and academics Kate Donovan (Berlin) and Ella Finer (London) in collaboration with:

Maurice Mengel (Head of Media, Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst); Albrecht Wiedmann (Curator, Berliner Phonogramm-Archiv, Ethnologisches Museum); Ludwig Luthardt (Museum für Naturkunde), Berlin. Richard Sabin (Natural History Museum); Dan Hall (Natural History Museum); Michele Banal (British Library Sound Archive), London. With the use of streamboxes by Soundcamp and the live technical support of Philipp Phildius.

Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Aktionsraum

PANEL I

Colonial Coordinates of Ecology and Contemporary Art

10.30

Welcome & Introduction

Gabriele Knapstein (Deputy Director and Head of Collections, Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, SPK, Berlin) and Hannah Baader (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

CHAIR

Eric de Bruyn (Freie Universität Berlin)

10.45

Christopher Williams-Wynn (4A\_Lab)

“A Framework for Control and Change.” Coloniality and Ecology at the Centre for Art and Communication, c. 1971

11.15

Zachary Caple (Aarhus University/Duke University, Durham)

A Digested Land: The Industrial Metabolism and Auto-rewilding of Bone Valley, Florida

11.45

Sria Chatterjee (Paul Mellon Centre, London)

Political Plants?

RESPONDENT

Peter J. Schneemann (Universität Bern)

13.00 Lunch Break

CHAIR

Robert Stock (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

14.00

James Nisbet (University of California, Irvine)

Illustrating Invasion

14.30

André Rottmann (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt/O.)

Masks and Machines: Notes on AI Ecologies and Decolonial Thought

RESPONDENT

Anna Blume (State University of New York, FIT)

DISCUSSANTS

Giovanni Aloï (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Anna Blume (State University of New York, FIT), Monica Gagliano (Southern Cross University, Lismore), Peter J. Schneemann (Universität Bern)

15.30 Coffee Break and Transfer

16.30

COLLECTION VISIT – participants only

Museum für Naturkunde, (paleo-)botanical collection

Depot, Reuchlinstr. 10-11, 10553 Berlin

With Ludwig Luthardt (Curator (paleo-)botanical collection, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin)

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

Simón Bolívar Lecture Hall, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut/Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

PANEL II

Paradise Drama: Vegetability, Power, and Resistance in Safavid Isfahan, Qing Kangxi, and Pre/Colonial Awadh

CHAIR

Sinem Casale (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI/University of Minnesota)

10.45

Mahroo Moosavi (4A\_Lab)

Isfahan through the Safavid Prose and Verse Shahr-ašhuḅ(s): From I'ja'z-i Hiravi's Raḡh to Vaḡid-i Qazvi'ni's Baḡh

RESPONDENT

Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

CHAIR

Margrit Pernau (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)

11.45

Parul Singh (4A\_Lab)

Contested Paradises: Aesthetics of Order and Morality in Nawabi and Colonial Gardens in Lucknow in the 19th Century

RESPONDENT

Sunil Khilnani (Ashoka University, Sonipat)

12.45 Coffee Break

CHAIR

Sinem Casale (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI/University of Minnesota)

12.00

Feng Schöneweiß (4A\_Lab)

The Depth of Surface. The Ecologies of Lacquer from Late Imperial China to Contemporary Berlin

RESPONDENTS

Birgitta Augustin (Curator, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin)

Wenyi Qian (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00

VISIT

Oriental Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Dietrich-Bonhoeffer Hall

Presentation by Christoph Rauch (Head, Oriental Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Introduction to the Collection of Persian Manuscripts at the Oriental Department

Collection workshop with Christoph Rauch, Mahroo Moosavi (4A\_Lab), and Parul Singh (4A\_Lab)

Persianate Compilations of the 16th and 17th Centuries: The Berlin State Library's Treasures

15.30 Coffee Break

LECTURES

Simón Bolívar Lecture Hall, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

16.00

Stefan Weber (Director, Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin) – remote

More than Ornament: Gardens, Scents, and Plants in the New Display of the Museum of Islamic Art

Moderation and Discussion: Sinem Casale (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI/University of Minnesota)

16.45

Sussan Babaie (The Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

Plant Sense. Why do Nomads need Gardens?

Moderation and Discussion: Christoph Rauch (Oriental Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

Thursday, 7 November 2024

Kulturforum, KGM Lecture Hall

PANEL III

Plants and the Senses in Visual, Linguistic, and Sound Cultures

CHAIR

Stefan Neuner (Universität der Künste Berlin)

10.15

Lea Viehweger (4A\_Lab)

Capturing Scent? Flowers in Early 16th Century German Portraits between the Sensory and the Symbolic

11.00

Daniela Hacke (Freie Universität Berlin) and Jason C. J. Terry (Freie Universität Berlin)

"We have no words for many." Senses and Language in 17th Century English Colonial Botany

RESPONDENT

Jasmin Mersmann (Freie Universität Berlin)

12.00

Ulrike G. K. Wegst (Northeastern University, Boston) and Rebecca Wolf (Director, Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung, Berlin)

Materials and Materiality in Music

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00

COLLECTION WORKSHOP – participants only

Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung, Musikinstrumenten-Museum

Holz hören/The Audibility of Wood with Rebecca Wolf (Director, Staatliches Institut für Musikforschung, Berlin) and Ulrike G. K. Wegst (Northeastern University, Boston)

Workshop on the diversity of wood in musical instrument making based on the collection of the Musikinstrumenten-Museum.

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00

VISIT AND SOLO PERFORMANCE \*

Gemäldegalerie, Gallery Space

Solo Performance by Margret Koell, historical baroque harp

Plant Songs in Renaissance and Baroque Music

17.00

PUBLIC GUIDED TOUR \*

Gemäldegalerie, Gallery Space

Parallel guided tours

with Lea Viehweger (4A\_Lab)

Nightshade, Men's Fidelity, and Star's Herb: Plants in Portraits by Albrecht Dürer and Contemporaries

and Stephan Kemperdick (Curator, Gemäldegalerie, Berlin)

Pflanzenbilder. Sprache, Sinne, Malkunst

in English and German

Friday, 8 November 2024

Museum für Fotografie, Fürstensaal

Panel IV

Plants' Photography. Contradictions of Form and Coloniality

CHAIR

Carlotta Castellani (Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo)

10.15

Ulrike Meyer Stump (Zurich University of the Arts)

Plants as Monuments: From Karl Blossfeldt's *Urformen der Kunst* (1928) to Las Pozas Gardens in Mexico (1962-1984)

11.00

Liliana Gómez (Universität Kassel)

"The World was my Garden." Photography and Botany's Modern Materialities

RESPONDENT

Kärin Nickelsen (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München/Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)

12.15 Lunch Break

13.15

COLLECTION WORKSHOP – participants only

Introduction to the Museum's Photographic Collection and its Plant Photographies

Christine Kühn (Curator, Collection of Photography, Kunstbibliothek, Berlin) and

Friederike Eden (Research Assistant, Collection of Photography, Kunstbibliothek, Berlin)

14.30

Round Table

On Ecological Entanglements across Collections. Disciplines, Systems of Knowledge, and Curatorial Practice

With Monica Juneja (Heidelberg University), Kärin Nickelsen (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München/Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Franziska Nori (Director, Frankfurter Kunstverein), and Alexis von Poser (Deputy Director, Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin)

Moderation: Hannah Baader (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, MPI)

End 16.00

Concept and Organisation:

Hannah Baader & 4A\_Lab team in collaboration with

Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Contact:

ArtHist.net

Antje Paul  
4a\_lab@khi.fi.it

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Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut  
Via Giuseppe Giusti 44  
50121 Firenze, Italia  
+39 055 24911-1  
info@khi.fi.it

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