

## AI and Artworks (Vienna, 16–17 Apr 26)

Vienna, Apr 16–17, 2026

Maria Theisen

AI and Artworks. Object Detection, Image Classification and Iconographic Analysis.

AI is transforming how we approach images of the past and present. This workshop is dedicated to the subject of AI-supported object detection, image classification and iconographic analysis, with a focus on drawn, painted and printed content. 21 contributors will draw on large- and small-scale datasets and explore the current possibilities and limitations of AI in this area: <https://indico.global/event/15085/contributions/>

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Programme:

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

08:45 – 09:00 Arrival and Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Introduction

Doris Gruber, IHB, Austrian Academy of Sciences / Maria Theisen, IMAFO, Austrian Academy of Sciences / Jan Odstrčilík, MLA2S, Austrian Academy of Sciences

09:30 – 11:00 Panel: Models

Chair: Matteo Valleriani, MPIWG Berlin

Meta-Acervos – Thiago Hersan, Parsons School of Design / Giselle Beiguelman, University of São Paulo / Ana Gonçalves Magalhães, University of São Paulo

A Benchmark Dilemma: Between Representativeness and Domain-Specificity – Marta Kipke, Center for Humanities Computing, Aarhus University / Louise Brix Pilegaard Hansen, Center for Humanities Computing, Aarhus University

Learning from Small Data: Adapting Pretrained Diffusion Models for 17th Century Painting – Katarina Mohar, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, ZRC SAZU / Rok Vrabčič, University of Ljubljana

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Panel: Augmented Data

Chair: Thomas Wallnig, University of Vienna

Beyond Vision: Metadata-Augmented AI for Iconclass Classification in Medieval Manuscripts – Drew Thomas, University of Salzburg / Julia Hintersteiner, University of Salzburg

Digital Iconology. Classification and Association in Visual Knowledge Systems – Charles van den Heuvel, University of Amsterdam, Huygens Institute / Etienne Posthumus, FIZ Karlsruhe / Hans Brandhorst, ICONCLASS

Exploring AI Approaches on Image Data Mining in Collections of the Austrian National Library – Carla Maria Schnedlitz, Christoph Steindl, Johannes Knüchel, Simon Mayer, Austrian National Library

13:00 –14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30 P a n e l: L a y o u t

Chair: Marion Romberg, University of Bonn

Computational Analysis of Medieval Pen Flourishing – Markus Seidl, Florian Kibler, Victor-Adriel De-Jesus-Oliveira, University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten / Martin Haltrich, Max Theisen, Research Center Stift Klosterneuburg

AI and Automatic Visual Recognition: Some Thoughts on the New Digital Methodologies for Image Retrieval – Barbara Tramelli, Freie Universität Bozen

Large-scale Study of Text-Image Layout in 20th-Century Periodicals – As a Reaction to the Absence of Archival Documents – Marta Pizzagalli, Università della Svizzera italiana / Cambridge University / Rocco Felici, Università della Svizzera italiana / Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:30 P o s t e r S e s s i o n

Artificially Intelligent Art History? A Transcultural Evaluation of Algorithmic Systems Building on Aby Warburg's Mnemosyne Atlas – Mert Özdemir, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

Faces of Nobility. AI-Assisted Image Analysis of the Wiener Salonblatt (1870–1938) – Christian Lendl, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Toward Digital Iconologies in Architecture – Nick Mols, Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 – 17:45 P a n e l: B i a s

Chair: Chiara Zuanni, University for Continuing Education Krems

Disentangling Bias – Model, Corpus, or Both? – Ellen Charlesworth, University of Luxembourg / Ludovica Schaerf, University of Zurich

The Algorithmic Canon and the Politics of Non-Western Visibility in the Age of AI – Elham Etemadi, Arkin University of Creative Arts and Design

17:45 – 18:00 Break

18:00 – 19:00 Keynote

Chair: Doris Gruber, IHB, Austrian Academy of Sciences

The Stables of Augeas: Standardizing Metadata with Iconclass Will Benefit AI – Etienne Posthumus, FIZ Karlsruhe / Hans Brandhorst, ICONCLASS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

09:00 – 10:00 Keynote

Chair: Maria Theisen, IMAFO, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Attributes, Objects, Poses, Scenes and Bias: Retrospective and Future Challenges of Art History and Computer Vision – Peter Bell, Philipps-University Marburg

10:00 – 10:20 Coffee Break

10:20 – 11:20 Panel: Relations

Chair: Doris Gruber, IHB, Austrian Academy of Sciences

From Data to Context: AI-Based Style Attribution in Art History – Raphael Rosenberg, Teresa Kamencek, University of Vienna / Velitchko Filipov, Michaela Tuscher, Silvia Miksch, Technical University of Vienna

Embedding-Based Image Analysis for Art Historical Research: Integrating AI into Digital Catalogues Raisonnés – Kiersten Thamm, HPF Innovations GmbH, Navigating.art

11:20 – 11:40 Coffee Break

11:40 – 13:10 Panel: Collections

Chair: Maria Theisen, IMAFO, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Object Detection for Visual Analysis of Medieval Charters: Decoration and Its Makers in Papal Documents – Florian Atzenhofer-Baumgartner, University of Graz / Martin Roland, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Between Potential and Practicality: Exploring AI's Potential in an Incomplete, Low-Resource Art Collection – Zsuzsa Sidó, Institute of Art History, ELTE Research Center for the Humanities, Art Collection of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Using AI for Icon Analysis – Ljudmila Djukic, Belgrade

Reference:

CONF: AI and Artworks (Vienna, 16-17 Apr 26). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 28, 2026 (accessed Apr 29, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/52099>>.