

Call for Papers

Let flowers speak...

Floral Motifs and Plant Symbolism in Popular Prints and Luxury Paper Production

5th Annual Conference of the Forum BildDruckPapier 2023 in Salzburg

The Forum BildDruckPapier invites you to its next annual conference in Salzburg next year. The symposium, organised in cooperation with the Salzburg Museum, will be devoted to floral art in the field of graphic art and luxury paper from 21 to 23 May 2023. For the lecture section of the conference on Monday, 22 May 2023, we are looking for papers that approach the topic of floral motifs and plant symbolism from different perspectives.

Floral motifs have been booming in the recent past. Visible signs of this are a multitude of museum presentations and academic contributions that deal with historical and contemporary aspects of nature, gardens and plant representations. For the Forum BildDruckPapier, with its focus on popular prints and luxury paper, there are many material and pictorial links to the subject of flowers. In devotional graphics, book illustrations, botanical/medical (educational) works, but also in school murals, Épinal prints, trading cards, scraps, water slide decals, playing cards, board games, puzzles, paper theatres, seasonal greeting cards, packaging, calendars and advertising material, the floral plays a role in the foreground or background. The conference aims to make these different forms of expression visible and to trace their meaning and function. Potential papers could deal with pictorial motifs with a floral context (garden of paradise, hortus conclusus, ...), with iconography/saint symbolism, with the language of flowers or floral symbolism (e.g. in connection with festivals, events in the course of life, ...), with the decorative use of floral elements (book decoration from frontispiece to frame, floral wallpaper, ...) or also with didactic floral representations (textbooks, games, ...).

Which flowers were depicted how and why? Who used them when, where and how? What meaning was inherent in the language of flowers in which context? The conference would like to approach these and similar questions. For the main section, we are therefore looking for contributions that deal with the diverse floral modes of representation. The 20-minute papers with subsequent discussion can be given in German or English. Interested parties should send their abstract (max. 2,500 characters incl. spaces) in German or English together with a short vita to bild-druck-papier@web.de by 20.1.2023. Unfortunately, travel and accommodation costs cannot be covered. A publication of the contributions is not planned. In addition to the main section, the Free Section Image-Print-Paper also offers the opportunity to present projects on popular printmaking and luxury paper in general in 10- to 20-minute papers. Abstracts are also requested.

For further questions please contact:

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