

»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.

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In cooperation with
Zentrum für Medienwissenschaften
University of Cologne



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January 25–26 – Conference at the University of Metz
**Klassische Archäologie und europäische Dichtung
im 20. Jahrhundert**

February 9–10 – Workshop
Formkonstanz und Bedeutungswandel



VENUS AS MUSE

FIGURATIONS OF THE CREATIVE

CONFERENCE
18–20 | 01 | 2012



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

- 15.00 Coffee Break
15.15 **Hanjo Berressem** (Cologne) The Transit of Venus
16.00 **Rudolf Druß** (Cologne) »Gefährtin beim Schreiben der Verse«. Über die poetologische Bedeutung der »hochgebenedeiten Göttin« Venus bei Heinrich Heine

Concept

- > Günter Blamberger
- > Sebastian Goth
- > Hanjo Berressem

Contact

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012

TAGUNGSRAUM SEMINARGEBÄUDE

- 09.00 **Günter Blamberger** (Cologne) Welcome Address
Sebastian Goth (Cologne) Introduction

VISUAL ARTS

Chair: Stefan Grohé

- 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...‹

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 Harrisson** (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 ihre Schwestern in Esoterikkulturen seit Helena Blavatsky

Venue

- > Tagungsraum Seminargebäude
University of Cologne | January 18-19
- > Internationales Kolleg Morphomata
Center for Advanced Studies
Weyertal 59 (Back Building)
3rd Floor | January 20