



Workshop  
**Animate Things – Power and Agency  
in Pre-Columbian and Modern Latin America**  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2013

AT THE RAUTENSTRAUCH-JOEST-MUSEUM:

11.30 **ANNE SLENCZKA** (COLOGNE) Guided tour through the exhibition “The Divine Heart of Things: Pre-Columbian Art from the Ludwig Collection” (Meeting point: near front desk)

12.30 LUNCH BREAK

AT INTERNATIONALES KOLLEG MORPHOMATA:

14.00 **DIETRICH BOSCHUNG** (COLOGNE) WELCOME ADDRESS

**KAROLINE NOACK** (BONN) ANIMATE THINGS – CONNECTING THE AMERICAS

14.30 **JENNIFER VON SCHWERIN** (BONN) ANIMATE ARCHITECTURE: MAYA TEMPLES AND RITUAL OBJECTS AS ‘LIVING’ AGENTS OF POWER

15.45 COFFEE BREAK

16.00 **ELVIRA ESPEJO** (LA PAZ) ANIMATE TEXTILES IN THE BOLIVIAN ANDES AS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL AGENTS IN HISTORY AND TODAY

17.15 FINAL DISCUSSION (UNTIL 18.00)

IN COOPERATION WITH:

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum – Cultures of the World, Cologne,  
Cäcilienstr. 29-33, 50667 Cologne, Germany  
Department of Anthropology of the Americas, University of Bonn



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The workshop takes the current exhibition “Das göttliche Herz der Dinge. Altamerikanische Kunst aus der Sammlung Ludwig” (“The Divine Heart of Things: Pre-Columbian Art from the Ludwig Collection”) as a starting point in order to explore how objects can be understood as animate, as having not only impact but also agency in spiritual, social and political contexts. In order to discuss this approach we look at two examples from past and present Latin America: classical Maya architecture and its spiritual power on the one hand, and contemporary Andean textiles and their social and political power on the other hand. The workshop aims to link these case studies to recent theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of material culture that provide explanatory models for the conceptualisation of objects as animate and powerful.

### **Speakers:**

**Elvira Espejo** is a Bolivian artist, poet and researcher who combines artistic practice and academic reflection. She is specialised in Andean textiles and is also member of the directors' board of the Instituto de Lengua y Cultura Aymara in La Paz, Bolivia.

**Karoline Noack** is a cultural anthropologist and specialized in Andean Studies, with a thematic focus on transcultural processes in a historical perspective. She is Professor at the Department of Cultural Anthropology of the Americas at the University of Bonn.

**Jennifer von Schwerin** is a historian of Ancient Mesoamerican Art and Architecture. She worked as an Assistant Research Professor at the Department of Art and Art History of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and is now Research Associate at the German Archeological Institute in Bonn.

**Anne Slenczka** is a scholar of Mesoamerican Studies, museologist and guest curator of the current special exhibition “The Divine Heart of Things: Pre-Columbian Art from the Ludwig Collection” in the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum – Cultures of the World in Cologne.

The workshop will be held in English and is free and public. Please register at [larissa.foerster@uni-koeln.de](mailto:larissa.foerster@uni-koeln.de). The entrance to the exhibition is free for everyone who has registered.

**Concept:** Larissa Förster, Karoline Noack, Anne Slenczka