



International Summer School

Handling, Staging and Adoption of Materials

20–24 September 2021

When material is the topic of academic discourse, we refer to resources that are handled. Materiality is determined by way of its properties and is simultaneously transitory by way of attribution and understanding. At no point in time is it neutral; whether processed or not, material is always culturally coded. Additional forms of staging and attribution take place when the materials find their form in the process of artistic and technical adoption. Material may be handled in correlation or in opposition to its physical and cultural dispositions. A material's visual or mimetic representation, and exhibitions of individual materials, demand certain handling techniques, fitting into specific discourses of knowledge. The scientific adoption of material constitutes another form of classification and placement in discourses that are each historically specific and yet transitory. Materiality is thus not determined by itself, but by its handling – through artistic process, culturally ascriptive standardisation, and the exploratory approaches of scientific contemplation.

The Summer School of the *Dimensions of Techne in the Arts* research group addresses these various handlings of material. We will explore the transitory character of material with a view to its preparation, the techniques of how it was formed, and models of textual adoption. We will additionally take up the methodological challenge of experiencing and describing materiality in a sensorial way – a challenge that has gained new relevance as access to original artworks has become more difficult.

We will discuss approaches in dealing with material and processes or techniques of material adoption from the perspectives of art history, literary analysis, the history of science, and other practical methods. Questions and topics to be addressed include:

- How is material culturally constructed? How are material's properties defined and/or projected?
- Which terminology and categories are used when material is being discussed in terms of specific usage contexts, time periods, and disciplines? What do we learn about its handling?
- Under what terminologies and categories are materials discussed within particular contexts of use, time periods, and disciplines?
- How can material be described and communicated?



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Format

The Summer School by the *Dimensions of Techne in the Arts* research group, supported by the DFG, will be held completely online. The oft-discussed deficits of digital teaching will be proactively addressed and the possibilities of new formats will be explored. It will combine seminars, lectures, and workshop discussions with specialists from the fields of curating, restoration, and art. Participants will have the opportunity to present their own questions and research. Participants will also be able to closely interact and discuss with members of the research group from the fields of art history, German studies, and the history of science as well as with external specialists.

The working languages are English and German, and the Summer School starts on 21 September 2021 at 3:00 pm and ends on 24 September 2021 at 2:00 pm (CET).

Application

The Summer School is aimed at advanced students, doctoral candidates, and postgrad students in the humanities and social sciences as well as all courses of studies related to archival and material collections.

To apply, please send a curriculum vitae and a letter (maximum of three pages) outlining your research interest and the topic you would like to discuss in a twenty-minute presentation during the Summer School. Please send all the documents by *28 May 2021* to PD Dr. Henrike Haug <henrike.haug@uni-koeln.de>.

For further inquiries, please contact: PD Dr. Henrike Haug <henrike.haug@uni-koeln.de>

DFG Forschungsgruppe

Dimensionen der techne in den Künsten. Erscheinungsweisen – Ordnungen – Narrative

https://www.kg.tu-berlin.de/menue/forschung/laufende_projekte/dimensionen_der_techne/