



## **Research Newsletter** **01/2017**

This is the first issue of our Newsletter!

It is addressed to former guest scholars, to institutions and scientists cooperating with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. It provides you with information about recent research projects at our museums and research institutes, about conferences and new publications. In this first newsletter for example, we will give insight in new projects to share knowledge with indigenous people in Amazonia and introduce our new online publication on the art of "casting".

### **New Projects**



#### **Ethnology**

The context of decolonization is currently being discussed intensively at Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The project "Living Things in Amazonia and in the Museum" for example, started in 2016. In this project objects from the amazon region are studied together with representatives of various institutions in Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and Germany. [Read more](#)

Another project, the "Humboldt-Lab in Tanzania" is realized in cooperation with Tanzanian artists, the Bookstop Sanaa, the Nafasi Art Space and the University Dar es Salaam. It will be accompanied by conferences, workshops and seminars. [Read more](#)

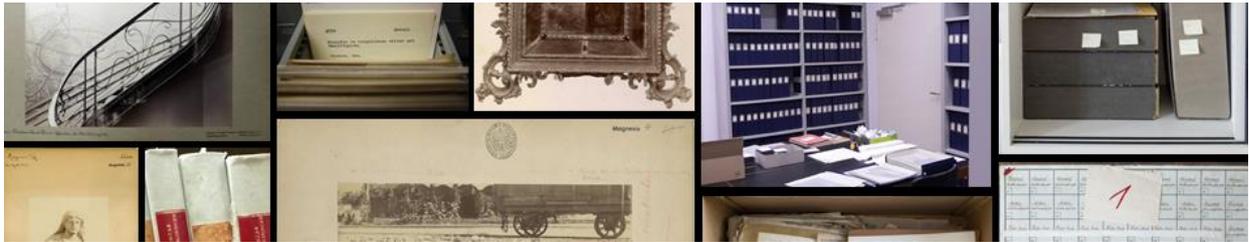
More information also in the context of the new presentation at the Humboldt Forum you can find on our [Blog](#) and on the Website of the [Humboldt Forum](#).



#### **Conservation and Art-Technology**

An art-technological study at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin investigates the

illuminated manuscript from the Netherlands „Maria von Geldern“ in cooperation with the Rathgen Forschungslabor. The investigation of the material and the state of preservation reaches from completely non-destructive analyses to methods requiring tiny samples. It is planned to perform chemical mappings to get an overview of the used pigments, inks, overpaints etc. The results of these investigations are the basis for the establishment of a new and efficient conservation concept. The Project is supported by the Foundation Alliance “Kunst auf Lager”. [Read more](#)



### **Photo Objects in the Museum**

The project explores the scholarly potential of photo archives in museums, universities and research institutes, as well as develops a model for the cross-departmental networking of different collections. Archaeology, art history and ethnology are connected not only by their common institutionalisation around 1900, but also by their use of photographs as substitutes for the objects of their research. Based on the most recent studies on the materiality of photographs and photo archives, the research project understands documentary photographs as three-dimensional objects formed by historical processes that operate as repositories of sedimented knowledge in social and cultural contexts.

[Read more.](#)



### **TAMAM**

Cultural Youth Work in Mosque Congregations and Extremism Prevention - a cooperation of the Museum of Islamic Art with the Institute of Islamic Theology at Osnabrück University. This cooperation will be long-lasting, ensuring that future graduates will also receive training in this area. Beyond this, the teaching materials that are to be developed will be made available to all mosque congregations in Germany. This will enable mosques to offer their congregations well-informed and appealing services in the area of cultural education. In the process, the pedagogical skills of teaching staff will be supported and developed.

[Read more.](#)



### **Localizing 4000 Years of Cultural History. Texts and Scripts from Elephantine Island in Egypt**

The Egyptologist and scholar of Oriental Studies Prof. Dr. Verena Lepper has received one of the most important awards in the academic world, the ERC Starting Grant from the European Research Council. She has been awarded a total of 1.5 million euros to finance her research project "Localizing 4000 Years of Cultural History: Texts and Scripts from Elephantine Island in Egypt". Thanks to this grant, a total of 10 new employees will be able to carry out research on the topic of Elephantine in the Papyrus Collection of the Ägyptisches Museum, which houses one of the biggest papyrus collections from Elephantine in the world next to the Louvre in Paris, the Brooklyn Museum in New York and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. [Read more.](#)



### **Academic Inventory Catalogue: Early Netherlandish and French Painting**

Berlin's Gemäldegalerie is uniquely distinguished by its large holdings of outstanding paintings from early Netherlandish and French painting. Among them are masterpieces such as Jan van Eyck's *Madonna in the Church*, the *Bladelin Triptych* by Rogier van der Weyden, the *Montforte Altarpiece* by Hugo van der Goes, and the 'Butterfly Madonna' (Virgin and Child with Angels) from Jean Malouel's circle. The goal of the project is to publish findings on the provenance, function, and allocation of the paintings as well as the genesis of the images, the development of motifs, and painterly techniques and processes in an inventory catalogue, which would then provide a basis for all further research. The Project is funded by the German Research Foundation "DFG". [Read More.](#)

## **Databases and Research-Resources**

### **Rembrandt-Database**

After 5 years of cooperation with the RKD – Netherlands Institute for Art History the Rembrandt-Database was launched online. The Rembrandt Database is an inter-institutional research resource for information and documentation on paintings by Rembrandt – or attributed to him, either now or in the past – in museums around the world. [Read more](#)

### **ZEDIKUM – Zentrum für digitale Kulturgüter in Museen (Centre for Digital Cultural Assets in Museums)**

ZEDIKUM is a recently started project, aiming for a central, public provision of 3D-

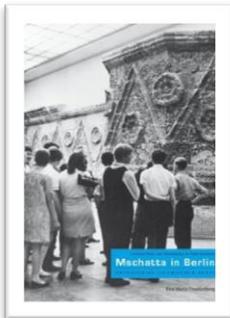
object data and service facility in the area of Digital Humanities, which supports the archaeological museum collections on Berlin's Museumsinsel (Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection, Collection of Classical Antiquities, Museum of Islamic Art, Museum of Prehistory and Early History, and Museum of the Ancient Near East). [Read more](#)

## Books



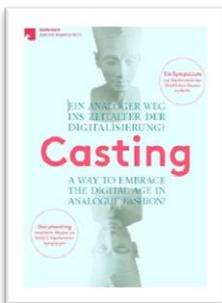
### **Amanda Phillips: Everyday Luxuries: Art and Objects in Ottoman Constantinople, 1600-1800, Connecting Art Histories in the Museum 2, Dortmund 2016 .**

This book offers a comprehensive introduction to the art and material culture of the Ottoman Empire, taking as its premise the key role of everyday activities as engines for art and craft production. [Read more](#)



### **Eva-Maria Troelenberg: Mschatta in Berlin Grundsteine Islamischer Kunst. Connecting Art Histories in the Museum, 1, Dortmund 2014**

This book traces the development of the Mschatta-facade from its discovery by Western travelers around 1840, through its musealization, to the destruction of the war and reconstruction in Berlin. [Read more](#)



### **Casting. Ein analoger Weg ins Zeitalter der Digitalisierung?**

How can an institution whose core activity lies in traditional handcrafted production hold its own in the face of technical innovation? The publication addresses that question and adds an interesting cross-section on the current research debate. Besides all the papers presented at the symposium the panel discussion and the final discussion are summarized in English and German at the end of the production. [Read more](#)

## Conferences

### **[The Idea of the Global Museum \(Berlin, 2-3 Dec 16\)](#)**

Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart

This conference is part of a project that explores the collection of the Nationalgalerie with respect to its international and transregional entanglements. The project will result in a large-scale exhibition project that will take place at Hamburger Bahnhof from November 2017 to April 2018. On the initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the project is funded as part of its program "Global Museum."

### **Shaping Access!**

The digitization of cultural heritage has made great progress in recent years. However, given the rapid technological development of electronic media, the project orientation of cultural promotion and the volatility of digital communication, questions of sustainability are becoming increasingly important.

### **Cultural Heritage: Reuse, Remake, Reimagine**

In today's digital society existing on the web is not enough. Audiences want to engage with culture, they want to create their own stories not just read the ones that exist, they want to integrate the information in their teaching, their creative projects.

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For more information we recommend our [Website](#) or on [Facebook](#).  
We also recommend our blog [Museum and the City](#).

**We are looking forward to hearing from you!**

**Please contact us via email: [forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de)**

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Generaldirektion Forschung Ausstellungen Projekte  
Stauffenbergstr. 41  
10785 Berlin  
[forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:forschung@smb.spk-berlin.de)