

Objects, Commodities,
and Societies in
Historical Perspective
June 23–25, 2011

Making Things Speak



Europa im Nahen Osten
Der Nahe Osten in Europa

S M
B Museum für Islamische Kunst
Staatliche Museen
zu Berlin



Kunsthistorisches
Institut
in
Florenz

www.khi.florenz.it

Making Things Speak

Objects, Commodities, and Societies in Historical Perspective

Venues:

Theodor-Wiegand-Saal, Pergamonmuseum (Conference)
Mschatta-Saal, Pergamonmuseum (Keynote)

Convenors:

TOUFOUL ABOU-HODEIB (Fellow of EUME 2010/11) and
STEFAN WEBER (Director, Museum für Islamische Kunst)

Please register at eume@wiko-berlin.de

The “Making Things Speak” workshop investigates objects and their agency—how they are transformed (or not) by their uses and contexts and how they impact human lives. The past twenty-five years have seen a proliferation of writings tracing social practices of exchange and consumption through the objects of material culture. This has added to an already existing body of literature in museology and art history focusing on the objects themselves, their production, and their exhibition.

Following objects across the boundaries of Europe and the Middle East, the workshop brings together perspectives from museology, art and architectural history, and social history. By combining object-based and social-based approaches, the aim of this workshop is not only to explore the tension between objects as exhibited and as everyday pieces, but also to discuss how the line separating the two is constituted, crossed, and conceived of.

Thu 23 June 2011

Mschatta-Saal, Pergamonmuseum

Keynote Lecture

19:00 ERNST J. GRUBE
Professor Emeritus, Università degli Studi, Venezia
**From the Fatimid Treasuries of Cairo:
A Thousand-Year-Old Rock Crystal Ewer
from the Edmund de Unger Collection**

Fri 24 June 2011

Theodor-Wiegand-Saal, Pergamonmuseum

Biographies of Things

- 10:00—10:30 Welcome
by STEFAN WEBER and TOUFOUL ABOU-HODEIB
- 10:30—11:00 GERHARD WOLF
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
**Talking Boxes and Singing Vessels:
Towards a Poetics of Receptacles**
- 11:00—11:30 GISELA HELMECKE
Museum für Islamische Kunst
**Some Remarks about a Biography of Objects
in Museums**
- 11:30—12:00 AVINOAM SHALEM
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
For Your Eyes Only: The Objective Condition
- 12:00—12:15 Coffee Break
- 12:15—13:15 **Discussion**
Moderator: BIRGIT MEYER
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / Fellow of the
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin 2010/11
- 13:15—14:45 Lunch Break

Consuming Things

- 14:45—15:15 TOUFOUL ABOU-HODEIB
Fellow of EUME 2010/11
**A Tale of a Phonograph:
Foreign Objects in a Late Ottoman City**
- 15:15—15:45 HESTER DIBBITS
Meertens Institute (KNAW) /
Netherlands Open Air Museum
**Exotic Commodities in a Dutch Fishing
Village, 1650–1800**
- 15:45—16:15 AMANDA PHILLIPS
Max Planck Fellow, Kunsthistorisches Institut
in Florenz / Museum für Islamische Kunst
**Ottoman Goods in Ottoman Houses:
Theme and Variation**
- 16:15—16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30—17:30 **Discussion**
Moderator: TAMER EL-LEITHY
New York University / Fellow of EUME 2010/11

Sat 25 June 2011

Theodor-Wiegand-Saal, Pergamonmuseum

Museums and Collecting

- 10:30—11:00 STEFAN WEBER
Museum für Islamische Kunst /
Member of EUME
**The Biography of Things—Things of
Biographies: The Trajectories of Objects in
Time, Space, and Society**
- 11:00—11:30 EVA TROELENBERG
Max Planck Fellow, Kunsthistorisches Institut
in Florenz / Museum für Islamische Kunst
**Museum Narratives and the Eloquence of the
Aesthetic: The Case of the Mshatta Façade**
- 11:30—12:00 NABILA OULEBSIR
Université de Poitiers, CRIHAM / CRIA-EHESS
**Museums and Collections in European
and Non-European Contexts:
Transcultural Transfers in the Mediterranean**
- 12:00—12:15 Coffee Break
- 12:15—13:15 **Discussion**
Moderator: FADI BARDAWIL
Fellow of EUME 2010/11
- 13:15—14:45 Lunch Break

Architectural Things and Things in Architecture

- 14:45—15:15 MARGARET GRAVES
University of Edinburgh
**Model and Microcosm:
Architecture and the Miniature**
- 15:15—15:45 CHRISTIAN SASSMANNSHAUSEN
Freie Universität Berlin
**Les mauvais sujets de Tripolis:
Social Things and the Display of
Conflicting Identities**
- 15:45—16:15 HANNAH BAADER
Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
**The Votive Object:
Making Things Speak and Act**
- 16:15—16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30—17:30 **Final Discussion**
Moderator: MANAN AHMED
Freie Universität Berlin



Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe is a five-year research program of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. This research program seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. It draws on the expertise of scholars in and outside of Germany and is embedded in university and extra-university research institutions in Berlin. The program builds upon the previous work of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin's Working Group Modernity and Islam and is funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

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