

Thinking with Materials

Across Histories and Practices

DAY 1 | THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2026

Technology Center UMPRUM, Cinema Room (3rd Floor)

Mikulandská 134/5, Prague 1

10:00 Registration

10:30 Welcome and Introduction

Panel 1 — Making as Knowing

Chair: Veronika Soukupová

11:00 Leah Warriner-Wood (University of Lincoln):
Threads of Identity: Conservation as Material Historiography in the Doddington Hall
Tapestry Interiors (online)

11:20 Marta Wódz (KU Leuven):
Following Red: Contemporary Artists Unravelling the Histories and Ecologies of
Natural Dye

11:40 Saar Meganck (Architecture Academy Maastricht/KU Leuven):
The Hand Across Time: A Material-Hermeneutic Method: Re-activating Colour as
Material Intelligence in the Archive of Wim van Hooff

12:00 Q&A

12:20 Coffee break

Panel 2 — The Nature of Materials

Chair: Monika Drlíková

12:50 Yixin Xu (University of Oslo):
Amber Connections: Extraction, Crafts and Material Hierarchies in the Late Imperial
Sino-Burmese Borderlands

13:10 Jiří Melzmuf (Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague):
Vital Matter, Dead Labor: Debating Materialist Approaches to Photography

13:30 Ana Rodríguez Castillo (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid):
From Blue to Yellow with Nothing in Between: Filling a Chromatic Gap in the
18th Century

13:50 Q&A

14:10 Lunch break

Panel 3——Rethinking Art-Historical Categories

Chair: Tomáš Klička

15:10 Monika Čejková (National Gallery, Prague) and Dunja Stevanović (Academy of Fine Arts, Prague):
Beyond “Combined Technique”: Material Ambiguity and Art-Historical Language in
Czech Informel (online)

15:30 Thomas Cooper (Lincoln College, University of Oxford):
What might art history gain by examining critically the historiography of textile
scholarship?

15:50 Anna Kipke (Leuphana University Lüneburg/ Free University Berlin):
Craft as Blind Spot: Reconstructing the Role of Craft in Art Therapy/Art History

16:10 Q&A

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Keynote: Prof. Ann-Sophie Lehmann (University of Groningen)

18:30 Wine reception

DAY 2, FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

Technology Center UMPRUM, Cinema Room (3rd Floor)

Mikulandská 134/5, Prague 1

10:00 Keynote: Prof. Milena Bartlová (Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague)

11:30 Coffee break

Panel 1——Agency Between Art and Matter

Chair: Veronika Králíková Červená

12:00 Jiří Pitrmuc (Academy of Arts, Architecture, and Design in Prague):
Living Ambiguity and the Materiality of Contemporary Painting

12:20 Santa Sleiksa (Art Academy of Latvia):
Material Agency under Ideological Pressure: The Technological Discourse of Georgs
Kruglovs’ Ceramics (online)

12:40 Amy C. Llewellyn (London):
Paper works: the function of folded paper within the printed matter, politics and
power/knowledge of the Association of Autonomous Astronauts.

13:00 Q&A

13:20 Lunch break

Panel 2——Storied Matter

Chair: Denisa Dolanská

- 14:20 Victoria Anastasyadis (University of Groningen):
The Red Thread: Unravelling the Work of Dutch Textile Artists Herman and Désirée Scholten
- 14:40 Ben Caro & Kat Cutler-MacKenzie (London):
The slow slough of stone: surface encounters in The Skin of Stone
- 15:00 Magdaléna Volejníková (Palacký University Olomouc):
Before the Material Turn? Viktor Kotrba and the Shifting Status of Brick in Czech Medieval Architectural Historiography
- 15:20 Q&A
- 15:40 Coffee break

Panel 3——Nature as Co-Artist

Chair: Monika Drlíková

- 16:10 Marie Luise Geissler (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg):
Implicit natural materialities in the early modern sottobosco genre
- 16:30 Piermario De Angelis (University of Bergamo):
Stretched into deep time. Earthly visions and geological imagery of painted stones through the writings of Roger Caillois and Jurgis Baltrušaitis
- 16:50 Elias Ghekiere (University of Hasselt/ PXL-MAD School of Arts):
Skin as Region: Reading and expressing vital beauty through the process of glass-weathering
- 17:10 Q&A

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