

PRESS RELEASE

A worldwide first

An international and interdisciplinary scholarly conference examines the “erotic look” at archaeology, art and history

**27 – 30 June 2018 Museum August Kestner (Hannover) and
Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum (Hildesheim)**

Keywords: Egyptology, archaeology, art history, history, literary studies,
 homosexualit(ies), LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bi, trans and intersex) and gender
 studies

SHORT VERSION (see below for a longer version)

For the very first time, a scholarly conference is being devoted to the ‘erotic look’ at archaeology and art. The conference marks the 250th anniversary of the murder of the German ‘forefather’ of art history and classical archaeology, Johann Joachim Winckelmann, on 8 June 1768 in Trieste. His 300th birthday (9 December 1717) was celebrated last year – among others – in a much-noticed exhibition at Berlin’s ‘Gay Museum’. In continuance of this show, 32 scholars from seven nations representing such diverse disciplines as Egyptology, classical archaeology, art history, literary studies, gender studies, pre- and early history, are coming to Hannover and Hildesheim for four days to discuss the topic ***Winckelmann and His Passionate Followers: Queer Archaeology, Egyptology and the History of Arts 1750 – 2018***. This noteworthy conference will be opened on Wednesday, 27 June 2018 at 6 pm in the Museum August Kestner (Hannover) with a lecture (in German) on Winckelmann and human rights by the internationally prominent American literary scholar Prof. Robert Deam Tobin (Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts / USA).

Additional information on the conference as well as the complete programme can be accessed at:

<https://queer-archaeology.de/start/>

A press kit with downloadable images can be accessed at:

<https://queer-archaeology.de/presse/>

The conference is financed by the 'Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Hannover'.

Representatives of the press who wish to report on the conference are cordially invited to attend. The organisers will bear the arising costs.

Information and registration:

Dr. Wolfgang Cortjaens
Architectural and art historian /
Conference organisation
0178 8521206
cortjaens@queer-archaeology.de

and

Dr. Christian E. Loeben
Egyptian and Islamic Collections
Museum August Kestner
0511 168 42590 und 0176 52234549
christian.loeben@hannover-stadt.de
loeben@queer-archaeology.de

SUMMARY

'Winckelmann and His Passionate Followers 1750-2018. Queer Archaeology, Egyptology and the History of Arts 1750-2018'

An international conference in the Museum August Kestner, Hannover, and the Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum, Hildesheim

In collaboration with:

Egyptology – The Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS), Leiden University / The Netherlands

Dates: 27 to 30 June 2018 (27, 28 and 29 June in Hannover, 30 June in Hildesheim)

Additional information on the conference as well as the complete programme can be accessed at:

<https://queer-archaeology.de/start/>

Public evening lectures in the Museum August Kestner, Hannover (free of charge):

27 June 2018 at 6 pm:

'Winckelmann und die Menschenrechte'

(Prof. Dr Robert Deam Tobin, Clark University, Worcester, MA / USA)

28 June 2018 at 6 pm:

'Geschlechtsübergreifende gelehrte Arbeit an der Antike um 1800'

(Dr Adelheid Müller, Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur Mainz / Institut für Klassische Archäologie der Freien Universität Berlin)

Sponsored by: 'Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Hannover'

LONG VERSION

A noteworthy scholarly conference will be opened on 27 June 2018 at 6 pm with a public lecture (in German) by the internationally prominent American literary scholar Prof. Dr

Robert Deam Tobin (Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts / USA). He will be speaking on the topic of Winckelmann and human rights. The name in the title of the lecture and the conference as a whole references Johann Joachim Winckelmann, the 'forefather' of art history and classical archaeology. The 250th anniversary of his death occurred on 8 June. The world famous scholar was murdered during a robbery attempt while travelling in Italy. Winckelmann's homosexuality, which he lived openly and unambiguously addressed in his letters, was long a taboo subject in the world of academia, and in fact still is to some extent. This taboo was broken for the first time last year, when Winckelmann's 300th birthday (9 December 1717) was celebrated in a much-noticed exhibition 'Winckelmann – The Divine Sex' at Berlin's 'Gay Museum'.

The discussion that was triggered by that show will now be continued from 27 to 30 June 2018 in Hannover and Hildesheim at the international and interdisciplinary conference ***Winckelmann and His Passionate Followers: Queer Archaeology, Egyptology and the History of Arts 1750 – 2018***. This topic will be discussed by 32 scholars from seven nations representing such diverse disciplines as Egyptology, classical archaeology, art history, literary studies, gender studies, pre- and early history. It is probably the first ever scholarly conference to examine Winckelmann's legacy specifically from a 'queer' perspective. The twenty contributions by distinguished international scholars will shed light on sexual as well as gender-spanning interpretations of the above-cited disciplines, for example the study of homosexualit(ies) in ancient civilisations or the homosexuality of the scholars and collectors researching them.

The Museum August Kestner lent itself as the central conference venue not only because of its uniquely diverse holdings of Egyptian, classical and applied art objects but also through the person of its founder, the collector August Kestner (1777–1853). The son of the original Lotte in Goethe's 'Werther', Kestner lived for 36 years as a plenipotentiary in Rome, where he was truly one of Winckelmann's 'passionate followers'.

A second evening will be held on 28 June at 6.30 pm. It will be held by the Berlin archaeologist and art historian Dr Adelheid Müller, who will address the role of women in the early history of archaeology and why this discipline in particular remained closed to women for such a long time.

Both evenings are open to the public free of charge. Visitors are cordially welcome to attend.

Additional information on the conference as well as the complete programme can be accessed at:

<https://queer-archaeology.de/start/>

The conference contributions will be published in book format as well as online in 2019.