

Programme

What is a fragile image? This workshop brings together scholars from art history, archaeology, and related fields to explore images whose status, meaning, and operation are unstable. Across periods and media, the contributions address temporal instability, semantic ambiguity, ontological self-reflexivity, and the role of boundaries and frames.

Tuesday 15 September

09:00–09:30	<i>Welcome - coffee at the foyer</i>
09:30–10:00	Introduction by the organizers
10:00–12:45	Session 1: Semantic Ambiguity <i>Images that sustain multiple readings and challenge stable interpretation.</i>
10:00–10:30	Lidia Chiné Zapater (Kiel University) – “Strategies of Deliberate Pictorial Ambiguity in Miniature: Gardens in Axonometric Plan”
10:30–11:00	Magdalena Burlacu (University of Bern) – “The Architecture of Fragility: Configurations of the Imaginary and the Gaze in The Shepherd of Hermas”
11:00–11:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:20–11:50	David Bucheli (eikones, University of Basel) – “Flipping the lid. A case study”
11:50–12:45	Discussion. Respondent: Caroline van Eck (University of Cambridge)
12:45–14:00	<i>Lunch at eikones</i>
14:00–17:00	Session 2: Temporal Instability <i>Reuse, copying, archival survival, and changing meanings across time.</i>
14:00–14:30	Marlis Arnhold (Kiel University) – “Shifting Meanings and Framings: A Temporal Perspective on the Reuse of Images of Gods from and/or in Cult Contexts”
14:30–15:00	Warja Tolstoj (eikones, University of Basel) – “Anchoring Fragility: A Copy of a Relic, a Relic of a Copy at Domine Quo Vadis”
15:00–15:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:20–15:50	Vera Elizabeth Allen (eikones, University of Basel) – “Seeing through Prisms: The Visual Playground of Deir el-Bersha, Egypt”
15:50–16:20	Alena Williams (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna / NOMIS fellow eikones, University of Basel) – “Ephemeral Futures and the Astrophotographic Archive”
16:20–17:00	Discussion. Respondent: Annette Haug (Kiel University)
18:15–19:30	Keynote Lecture by Caroline van Eck (University of Cambridge) – “Fragile Images: Naturalism and Camouflage”
19:30	<i>Apéro</i>

Wednesday 16 September

09:00–09:15	Coffee at the foyer
09:15–12:15	Session 3: Ontological Fragility <i>Images between object, trace, presence, and interpretation.</i>
09:15–09:45	Evan Allen (Kiel University) – “Pliny’s Fragile Paradigm: Destabilizing Meaning and Making in Pliny’s Natural History”
09:45–10:15	Paul Morrow (University College Dublin / NOMIS fellow eikones, University of Basel) – “Images on Trial: Semantic Ambiguity and the Legal Limits of Imagery”
10:15–10:35	Coffee break
10:35–11:05	Zuzanna Sarnecka (University of Bern) – “Fragile Masterpieces: Early Modern Ceramics at the Pharmacy Museum, Basel”
11:05–12:15	Discussion. Respondent: tba
12:15–13:30	Lunch break
13:30–17:30	Session 4: Frames and Boundaries <i>Images that are shaped by conceptual and configurative boundaries, frames, and interfaces.</i>
13:30–14:00	Giulia Bertoni (Kiel University) – “...In iis qui pictores parergia appellant”: birds and ontological instability in Roman wall painting
14:00–14:30	Gregor Krosigk (University of Basel) – “Figures as (A)Topoi”
14:30–15:00	Jiliang Zhang (University of Basel) – “Observation without Conclusion: Fragile Recognition in Two Miniatures from a Moralia in Iob Manuscript”
15:00–15:20	Discussion. Respondent: Warja Tolstoj (eikones, University of Basel)
15:20–17:30	Participant excursion to Robert Knöll Rahmen - frames and framing practices
18:15–19:30	Keynote Lecture by Annette Haug (Kiel University) – “What We See Looks Back at Us: Gaze Relations in Pompeian Wall Painting”
19:30	Speakers’ dinner

Thursday 17 September

09:00–09:30	Coffee at the foyer
09:30–12:00	Closing Forum: Fragile Images across projects <i>Drawing connections across periods, methods, and media.</i>
09:30–10:10	Opening synthesis by the organizers
10:10–10:30	Coffee break
10:30–12:00	Final discussion: Testing Fragility Across Periods and Disciplines / Closing remarks