

# WORKS IN PROCESS. DIMENSIONS OF BECOMING WITHIN THE ARTS

6.10. –  
7.10.2022  
University of  
Bochum

**Interdisciplinary Early Career Conference  
at the University of Bochum**

**organized by the DFG-funded research group  
*Dimensions of techne in the Arts –  
Manifestations / Systems / Narratives***

Since the middle of the 20th century, scholars have observed a mode of *becoming* in non-animate entities: not only in the genesis of technological objects (Simondon 1958), but also within natural and cultural processes (Barad 2005). Such concepts of vitality have been successfully applied to the arts: artifacts and artworks can no longer be studied merely in terms of their materiality and objecthood. They need to be understood as agents (Latour 2005) within a complex system of correlations and thus, as subjected to constant transformation (Ingold 2010).

In the Western world, the (neo-)Platonic theory of ideas and Aristotelian hylomorphism have dominated artistic discourses for centuries. According to these concepts, possible completions of any work of art are – owing to its matter – already ideally presupposed during its formation; they assume a work of art will be completed at a certain point in time. Since the 1960s, the structural openness of art works has been increasingly stressed within the humanities (Eco 1962). Questions of “form” and “finish” have shifted towards the study of the processual nature of artworks and artistic strategies (Parshall 2016). As a result, visible traces of processing, materialization, and post-production (Bushart/Haug 2017, Kunze 2019, Manovich 2001) and intentionally obscured efforts of artistic production (Pousão-Smith 2003) have become central research subjects within art history and other disciplines.

The interdisciplinary conference *Works in Process. Dimensions of Becoming in the Arts* will build on these themes of becoming within the processual for the arts. Organized by the early career researchers of the DFG-funded research group *Dimensions of techne in the Arts – Manifestations / Systems / Narratives*, we want to deploy the theoretical approaches of structural vitality and openness to artifacts and artworks – from their creative conception to their (autopoietic) production up until their afterlife – and make them observable as epistemically significant.

**Interdisciplinary Early Career Conference  
by *Dimensions of techne in the Arts –  
Manifestations / Systems / Narratives***

## THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER

### 09:30 **Welcome & Introduction**

Jennifer Gerber (German Studies, Bochum) and  
Maximilian Wick (German Studies, Bochum)

### 10:00 **PANEL I COINCIDENCE**

*moderated by Jennifer Gerber (German Studies, Bochum)*

#### **Chance and Choices – Materials and Painting Process of Foliage in the 17th Century**

Charlotte Hoffmann (Conservation, Constance/Stuttgart)

#### **Goethe's Open-Ended Manuscripts**

Dennis Schäfer (German Studies, Princeton)

11:30 /  
12:00 *Coffee Break*

### 12:00 **PANEL II RECIPROCITY**

*moderated by Maximilian Wick (German Studies, Bochum)*

#### **Becoming Landscape. The Fracture of Dutch Dunescapes in the 17th Century**

Theresa Brauer (Art History, Constance)

#### **Plasticity and the Imprint. On Giuseppe Penone's Processual Sculpture**

Alice Iacobone (Philosophy, Genoa)

#### **The Photographic Gesture after Simondon**

Mona Schubert (Art History, Cologne/Graz)

14:15 /  
15:00 *Lunch Break*

### 15:00 **EXCURSION**

#### **Museum unter Tage**

Meeting Point: Station "Schlosspark / Museum unter Tage"

16:00 /  
18:00 **Guided Tours of the Exhibition**  
*Die Kraft des Staunens. / The Power of Wonder. New Materialism in Contemporary Art*

### 18:30 **KEYNOTE**

#### **Artful Gestures. A Critique of Processual Aesthetics**

Ann-Sophie Lehmann (Art History & Material Culture, Groningen)

*moderated by Christina Lechtermann (German Studies, Bochum) and  
Wolf-Dietrich Löhr (Art History, Bochum)*

## FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

### 09:30 **PANEL III IN/VISIBILITY**

*moderated by Luisa Feiersinger (Art & Visual History, Berlin)*

#### **Becoming of/in Portraiture: Modes of Inscription in Early Photographic Manuals – and the Photographer's Studio**

Carina Dauven (Art History, Bochum)

#### **Showing the Invisible: Glass/Film Experiments by David Schnuckel**

Karina Pawlow (Art History, Cologne)

11:00 /  
11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30

## **PANEL VI PARTICIPATION**

*moderated by Bianka-Isabell Scharmann (Art History, Cologne)*

**Enlightening. The Coming into Being of a Participatory Work by  
Piotr Kowalski and many others**

Annemarie Kok (Art History, Utrecht/Groningen)

**Augmenting the Closet: *Stonewall Forever* (2019) as Unfinished  
Digital Monument**

James M. Levinsohn (Art History, Toronto)

13:00 /

14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00

## **PANEL V DIS/CONTINUITY**

*moderated by Luca Frepoli (Art History, Berlin)*

**Six Dances for Prepared Piano: A Continuous Choreographic  
Process**

Marjana Krajač (Dance Studies, Ohio)

**Disrupting Linear Chronology: Nonlinear Time and Becoming at the  
Museum**

Julia Alting (Cultural Studies, Groningen)

15:30 /

16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00

## **PANEL VI DECAY**

*moderated by Katharina Lee Chichester (Art History, Bochum)*

**The Purpose is to Decay: Deterioration and Temporality in Zoe  
Leonard's *Strange Fruit* (For David)**

Ren Ewart (Arts and Culture, Amsterdam)

**Conserving Agency: Notes on Decay, Growth and Museum Practices**

Nina Samuel (Art and Science History, Berlin)

## **VENUES**

**University of Bochum**

Veranstaltungszentrum Saal 1

Universitätsstraße 150

44801 Bochum

**Museum unter Tage**

Schloßpark

Nevelstraße 29D

44795 Bochum

## **ORGANISATION**

Theresa Brauer, Jennifer Gerber, Karina Pawlow,  
Mona Schubert, Giulia Simonini, Maximilian Wick

## **CONTACT**

[worksinprocess.conference@gmail.com](mailto:worksinprocess.conference@gmail.com)

<https://techne.hypotheses.org/2186>

Instagram: @dimensionen.der.techne

## **REGISTER HERE**



### **Please note**

Despite the unpredictability of pandemic conditions, any and all attempts will be made to have an in-person conference in Bochum. The panels and keynote will additionally be made accessible via Zoom. Should conditions not allow us to proceed in this manner, an online format will be pursued.