

FORUM ON THE ICONOGRAPHY IN MESOAMERICA

(Friday, 28th - Saturday, 29th of September, 2012
University of Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1,
20146 Hamburg)



The event provides a panel of scholarly exchange on Mesoamerican iconography. In addition to presentations that reflect the variety of current research and new approaches, workshops will take place/will be held to respond specifically to the iconography of individual cultures in Mesoamerica.

The work of Alexander von Humboldt and scholars in his succession on the complex, often enigmatic, iconography from Mexico and Central America and its decoding and interpretation provides a large scope for scholars of archeology, cultural anthropology and ethnohistory, religious studies, visual studies and art history, to name a few.

The analyzed works encompass architectural sculptures and reliefs, vase paintings, illuminated manuscripts and ritual objects from pre-Hispanic times, as well as from colonial times. This also includes contemporary works in the arts and crafts, such as paintings, sculpture and architecture.

Thus, many scientists in various fields are working on the visual culture of Mesoamerica and its iconography. Therefore, the panel is aimed explicitly at researchers from various fields dealing with the Mesoamerican iconography, and therefore the event provides an explicitly interdisciplinary approach.

Possible topics for presentations are:

- Religious and cosmological ideas and their iconographic implementation;
Topics of political and ideological iconography, semiotics and symbolism of both individual and composite motifs;
- Concepts of narration in the pictographic and hieroglyphic, such as the structure of images and motifs;
- Reception processes such as adaptation or incorporation of iconography, such as partial or complete formal and/or contentual absorption of motifs, symbols and conventions of representation in the specific material culture;
- Iconography as a basis for (trans-)cultural contacts and exchange processes that are detectable by social and cultural interexchange e.g. commonly shared symbols and the resulting shifting effects on iconography;
- Research on the material aspects of specific objects or object groups and their effects on the iconography of the portraits and sculptures of Mesoamerica and their aesthetic value, in terms of allusiveness, metaphorical meaning or aspects of self-reference in sculpture, in stelae and sculpture, in the illuminated manuscripts, wall painting or muralism, vase painting and design, with anthropomorphic or zoomorphic designed objects, jewelry and ritual objects.

The deadline for the submission of proposals, for which please write to:

ckbrueckner@googlemail.com is July the 20, 2012

As part of this event open workshops on illuminated manuscripts from Oaxaca and central Mexico will take place. All interested persons are invited to contact their primary areas of interest to the 20th of July 2012 at the above email address.