

The Matter of Rococo Ornament

Guest Lecture by Michael Yonan

University of Copenhagen

SAXO Institute/Centre for Textile Research

Library and meeting room, Amagerfaelldvej 56 (2nd floor), 30 May 2016, 2 pm



Corinne Thépaut-Cabasset, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellow, welcomes Michael Yonan, Professor of Art History (University of Missouri), Monday 30 May 2016, at the Centre for Textile Research.

It is a commonplace in art history to say that early modern European art repeatedly placed art and nature into a critical dialogue. This lecture analyzes one moment in that dialogue, namely the play between art and nature in eighteenth-century rococo prints.

Rococo prints offer more than simple explorations of forms; they engage in a proto-scientific examination of perception in the material world.

By asking viewers to approach the representation of things with a specific mindset—indeed, creating that mindset through the structures of representation employed—rococo prints invite them to assume specific stances toward art and to the broader material world they engage daily.

The paper concludes with some thoughts about how to apply rococo materiality to various objects, including decorative arts and textiles.