

Love's Matter

The Material Culture
and Art of Affection
1700-1900

9th Edition of the *Entretiens de la Fondation Maison Borel*
International Workshop

12-13 November 2026

University of Neuchâtel, Espace Tilo-Frey 1, R.O.12 & R.S.38

Join online: [Webex link](#)

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Université de Neuchâtel
Institut d'histoire de l'art
et de muséologie



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Vereinigung der
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und Kunsthistoriker
in der Schweiz
Association suisse
des historiennes
et historiens
de l'art
Associazione
svizzera delle
storiche e degli
storici dell'arte

Thursday, 12 November 2026

Room R.O.12, Espace Tilo-Frey 1, University of Neuchâtel

09:00 *Registration & Welcome Coffee*

09:30 Introduction
Henriette Marsden (University of Cambridge) & Lara Pitteloud (University of Neuchâtel)

Keynote Lecture

10:00 "I observed in the midst of the jungle a beautiful column": Practices of Love and Grief in Eighteenth-Century Britain and India
Dr. Sally Holloway (University of Warwick)

11:15 *Coffee Break*

Panel 1 – Distant Desires: Flirtation, Fantasy, and the Imagined Other

11:30 Intimate Gazes: Erotic Materiality of Lovers' Eyes
Silvia Amadori (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

11:55 L'heure du berger: Shepherd Love in Eighteenth-Century Material Culture
Dr. Sofya Dmitrieva (University of Oxford, Voltaire Foundation)

12:20 The Bold and the Subtle: Women Loving Women in Eighteenth-Century Paris
Dr. Cynthia Sadler (University of Rostock)

12:45 Q&A Session and Discussion

13:15 *Lunch Break*

Panel 2 – Love Tokens: Gift Exchange, Attachment, and Social Obligation

14:15 "Short of Money": Coins, Care, and Precarity in Eighteenth-Century London
Dr. Stephanie Koscak (Wake Forest University)

14:40 "Obsolete lollypops" and "Tassel-trimmed" boot bags: Love Tokens and the Material Culture of 19th-Century English Engagements
Dr. Maggie Kalenak (University of Cambridge)

15:05 'I Came Home with Lots of Toys': Sailors, Love, and Coercive Giving
Maya Wassell Smith (Cardiff University, Royal Museums Greenwich)

15:30 Q&A Session and Discussion

Ville de Neuchâtel

16:30 Demonstration of the "Automates Jacquet-Droz" (for the participants only)
Musée d'art et d'histoire de Neuchâtel (Esplanade Léopold-Robert 1)

19:30 *Workshop Dinner in Neuchâtel for the participants*

Friday, 13 November 2026

Room R.S.38, Espace Tilo-Frey 1, University of Neuchâtel

Panel 3 – Affective Surfaces: Material Interfaces of Feeling

- 09:45 To my Friend: The Painted Canvas as a Conduit for Friendship in the Art of Annie Swynnerton and Susan Isabel Dacre
Dr. Eliza Goodpasture (Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford)
- 10:10 Intimate Surfaces: Pith Paper, Touch, and the Making of Love in Nineteenth-Century Britain
*The presentation will also include her paper awarded the VKKS/ASHAA Prize.**
Dahi Jung (University of Zurich)
- 10:45 Q&A Session and Discussion

VKKS/ASHAA Prize Ceremony & Presentations of the Winners

- 11:15 Award Ceremony of the “Prix d’encouragement à la recherche en histoire de l’art 2026” of the Foundation Alfred Richterich and the Swiss Association of Art Historians
- Senior Category – Tactile Knowledge: Crafting Nature with Pith Paper in Nineteenth-Century Women’s Albums in Britain*
To be presented together with Dahi Jung’s paper in Panel 3.
Dahi Jung (University of Zurich)
- Junior Category – The Catalogue as Stand-Alone Exhibition. How Seth Siegelaub Conceives of a New Exhibiting Medium for Conceptual Art
Leo Kaut (University of Basel)
- 12:00 *Apéritif dînatoire (Sponsored by VKKS)*

Panel 4 – Generative Care: Emotional Expression and Artistic Practice

- 13:30 “Jusqu’au bout des doigts”: Sculpted Hands as Intimate Portraits
Dr. Federica Vermot (University of Lausanne)
- 13:55 For the Love of Dog: Picturing Interspecies Companionship
Dr. Marie-Charlotte Lamy (University of Basel)
- 14:20 “I Divided Everything for My Five Children”: Maternal Love and Material Survival in Anna Marie Lieb’s World of Care and Confinement
Linnéa Kluge (Heidelberg University)
- 14:45 Q&A Session and Discussion
- 15:15 *Coffee Break*

Panel 5 – Emotional Regimes: Affective Authority, Patriotism and the Rites of Love

- 15:30 Learning to Love the Nation? Affective Objects in the Festivals of the Helvetic Republic (1798–1803)
Jakob Spengler (University of Bern)
- 15:55 Masculine Friendships among Chilean Politicians: Letters and the Material Practice of Love, 1808–1861
Dr. Javier Sadarangani (University of Bern) – online
- 16:20 Love, Longing and Loyalty: Authoritarian Rule and Material Culture in the Atlantic Space (ca. 1800s–1840s)
Dr. Moisés Prieto (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 16:45 Q&A Session, Discussion & Conclusion

Conception of the Workshop

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Access

Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences humaines

Espace Tilo-Frey 1, 2000 Neuchâtel

From Neuchâtel railway station:

- take the paid funicular (3 minutes), then walk for approximately 5 minutes.
- Alternatively, walk downhill for approximately 10 minutes.

Online attendance

Link: <https://unine.webex.com/meet/lara.pitteloud>

Acknowledgements

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Institut d'histoire de l'art et de muséologie de l'université de Neuchâtel

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Lake