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KLOSTER
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st. pölten

UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

WORKSHOP ORNAMENT & ALGORITHM

February 20—21, 2025

Exploring Interdisciplinary Pathways to
Analyzing Penwork in Medieval Manuscripts

Hosted by the PeuAFleu Research Project
at Klosterneuburg Abbey

PeuAFleu

Style-based automated classification of penwork in late medieval manuscripts

The PeuAFleu research project combines art history and artificial intelligence to study penwork decorations in medieval manuscripts, focusing on Klosterneuburg Abbey's collection. Using computer vision and machine learning, the project develops innovative methods to identify, classify, and analyse these intricate decorations, uncovering stylistic trends and connections that traditional approaches cannot easily address.

The upcoming workshop held at Klosterneuburg Abbey will bring together art historians and computer scientists to explore the intersection of these fields. Participants will examine manuscripts from the Abbey's collection, discuss cutting-edge AI tools for analysing large manuscript corpora, and collaborate on new approaches to understanding the artistic techniques and styles.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, February 20

9:45 a.m. Arrival, Tea & Coffee

📍 Quartier 1114

10:00 a.m. Introduction

👤 Martin Haltrich, Markus Seidl,
Monica Apellaniz-Portos, Max Theisen

10:45 a.m. Penwork — Fleuronnée

An Overview: Definition, Shape, Development

👤 Martin Roland

Fleuronnée (penwork) is easily recognised by any specialist but it lacks a clear definition and a generally accepted name. The introductory lecture will attempt to give the interdisciplinary audience a common knowledge of the phenomenon. Its origins in northern France and Flanders will be outlined and the characteristic forms of different regions and periods will be presented. Furthermore, the using of this basically graphic means will be explained both for highly sophisticated works of art and for structuring texts with small lombards.

11:15 a.m. Coffee Break

11:45 a.m. Penwork Hierarchy in the work of William de Brailes and his Collaborators

👤 Cynthia Johnston

This paper will present the types of penflourishing produced by the workshop of 13th century Oxford illuminator, William de Brailes and analyse the stylistic origins of the designs.

12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. The Penwork of Klosterneuburg Abbey

📍 Abbey Library 🧑 Max Theisen

After a showcase of some of the most notable penflourisscripts in the library's collection, participants will form groups to analyse, discuss, and familiarize themselves with the source material.

5:00 p.m. How can Computer Vision and History collaborate?

📍 Quartier 1114 🧑 Mathieu Aubry

This presentation examines two contrasting approaches to collaboration. The first focuses on [AIKON](#), an open-source modular web platform designed to enable historians to independently utilise computer vision tools. The second highlights a direct collaboration, showcasing the development of a custom computer vision approach specifically tailored for paleographic analysis.

5:45 p.m. Day One Wrap-up

6:00 p.m. Dinner

📍 Stiftsrestaurant Leopold

Friday, February 21

9:45 a.m. Arrival, Tea & Coffee

📍 Quartier 1114

10:00 a.m. AI for Art: A Focus on Visual Style Analysis and Penwork

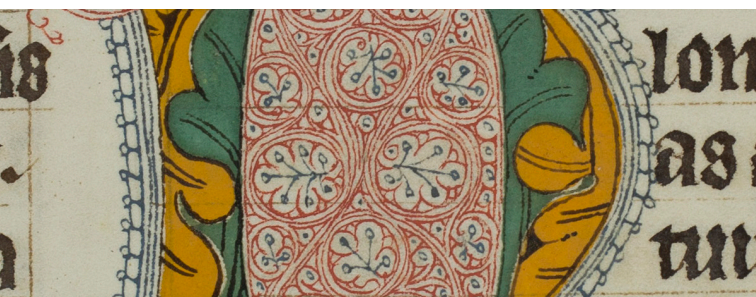
🧑 Monica Apellaniz-Portos

This presentation introduces a PhD project on computational visual style analysis, centered around a penwork case study to demonstrate how AI-driven methods can efficiently analyse and characterise artistic visual styles.

10:45 a.m. Workshop

During the hands-on workshop, participants will work in small groups to examine penflourished initials from the Abbey's manuscript collection. They will be tasked with comparing specific examples, identifying stylistic similarities and differences.

2:00 p.m. Closing Remarks



TEAM

Monica Apellaniz-Portos

Computer Vision Researcher
St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

Martin Haltrich

Project Lead
Klosterneuburg Abbey, Center for Cultural Studies

Anna Reisenbichler

Scientific Associate
Klosterneuburg Abbey, Center for Cultural Studies

Markus Seidl

Project Partner
St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences

Max Theisen

Art Historical Investigator
Klosterneuburg Abbey, Center for Cultural Studies

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mathieu Aubry

is a tenured researcher in Computer Vision at École des Ponts (IPParis) in the LIGM lab (UMR8049). He obtained his PhD at ENS in 2015, co-advised by Josef Sivic (INRIA) and Daniel Cremers (TUM). In 2015, he spent a year working as a postdoc with Alexei Efros in UC Berkeley. He has a leading role in the ANR EnHerit, VHS and EIDA projects and the ERC DISCOVER project on interpretable visual structures discovery, which specifically target applications to historical and Earth imagery.

Cynthia Johnston

is Senior Lecturer in the History of the Book at the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. She has published on both medieval and industrialist book production and collecting and is currently Research Lead for the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery's NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) project (2023-26). She is the editor of Cambridge University Press's Elements series 'Book Collecting'.

Martin Roland

Is educated in History of Art and Historical Auxiliary Sciences. He co-authored several volumes of the Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the Austrian National Library. His interests are interdisciplinary and focus on a recently published comprehensive study on the "Waldrapp" (Northern Bald Ibis), a team work on "Illuminated Charters" (<https://illurk.hypotheses.org/>) and a long standing interest in "Fleuronnée" (penwork).



REGISTRATION

To sign up for the workshop, please contact us at fokus@stift-klosterneuburg.at