

Call for Papers

**MAKING,
DOING &
TRANSMITTING**

Friday 5 March 2027

Following on from the first day of discussions devoted to drawing as an epistemic tool in art history, the second day of the workshop is an attempt to explore a pragmatic history of art-historical work. While the history of the discipline – long centred on major figures, ideas, and methods – has, since the 1980s, expanded to encompass its institutional frameworks, the concrete practices of art-historical work remain relatively understudied. By “embodied art history”, we understand art history as a living discipline and as a form of knowledge that is made, practised, and transmitted through concrete gestures and tools that leave traces.

Contributions may explore different areas and contexts of art-historical practice, such as research, teaching, or exhibition-making; focus on specific actions and gestures, such as looking or writing; examine the epistemic, heuristic, and analytical role of tools; or investigate the traces produced by art-historical work, from notes and sketches to drafts and memories. They may present a case study, reflect on the contributor’s own practice, or address methodological questions raised by the study of art-historical processes, such as: how can we identify sources that provide insight into such processes? How can past practices be reconstructed from the traces they leave behind? Proposals addressing

practices of working with images in fields beyond art history (archaeology, media studies, etc.) are also welcome.

The workshop is aimed at early-career researchers (PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers). **Proposals consisting of an abstract of no more than one page and a brief CV should be sent to melissa.rerat@unibas.ch by 30 November 2026.** Successful applicants will be notified by the end of December.

Each twenty-minute presentation will be followed by twenty minutes of plenary discussion. Speakers from the previous day will also take part in the discussions, and participants are strongly encouraged to attend the Thursday programme. Travel expenses (by train) and accommodation costs may be reimbursed up to a maximum of CHF 200. Those wishing to attend the workshop without presenting a paper are asked to register by email.

ORGANISERS

eikones, University of Basel:

Dr Melissa Rérat,
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and Humboldt fellow
(Institute of European Art,
History, Heidelberg
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