



Mind over matter - The Materiality of Anthropomorphic Figurines

Workshop in honour of the discovery of Venus II 1926-2026

01.-02.12.2026

Natural History Museum Vienna

Preliminary program

01.12. – Deck 50 NHMW		
08:30	<i>Admission and registration</i>	
09:00	<i>Welcome</i>	Katrin Vohland (General Director of the Natural History Museum Vienna)
	<i>Welcome and introduction</i>	Karina Grömer and Katherina Rebay-Salisbury
09:30	<i>Venus II - 100 years since the discovery</i>	Caroline Posch
Panel 1: The archaeology of anthropomorphic figurines		
09:50	<i>Palaeolithic sites in the UNESCO Cultural Landscape Wachau</i>	Samuel Kasemann
10:05	<i>Hohler Fels (Svabian Alb)</i>	Nicholas Conard Sibylle Wolf
10:20	<i>Zwischen Form und Bedeutung: Die Statuette vom Galgenberg und die Interpretation altsteinzeitlicher Darstellungen</i>	Christine Neugebauer
10:35	<i>Clay figurines of Krems-Wachtberg</i>	Thomas Einwögerer, Hannah Rohringer
10:50	Discussion	
11:05	COFFEE BREAK	
11:30	<i>Dolní Věstonice</i>	Jiří Svoboda
11:45	<i>New discoveries in Southern Moravia</i>	Martin Novak
12:00	<i>"Gönnersdorf-Type Female Depictions and their Significance for Magdalenian Social Dynamics"</i>	Sabine Gaudzinski-Windheuser
12:15	Discussion	
12:30	LUNCH	
Panel 2: The figurines: materiality and imagery		
13:30	<i>Palaeolithic figurine materiality – stone</i>	Walpurga Antl-Weiser
13:45	<i>Palaeolithic figurine materiality – ivory</i>	Marjolein Bosch
14:00	<i>Palaeolithic figurine materiality – clay</i>	Martina Galetova
14:15	Discussion	
14:30	COFFEE BREAK Guided Tour Venus I and Special Exhibition NHMW	
15:00	Panel 3: Creative Exchange – “Materiality behind the figurines”	
	<i>Bone and antler</i>	Wulf Hein



	<i>Ivory and jet</i>	Bernhard Röck, Anna-Lena Osten
	<i>Clay</i>	Marina Stiegler
	<i>Stone</i>	Michaela Almstädter
17:30	Discussion	
18:00	Evening reception	

02.12. – Lecture hall NHMW

Panel 4: Figurines through time

09:00	<i>Admission and registration</i>	
09:30	<i>Mesolithic figurine materiality and imagery</i>	Caroline Posch
09:45	<i>Neolithic figurine materiality and imagery</i>	Barbara Horejs
10:00	<i>Cruciform Figurines of Chalcolithic Cyprus</i>	Emma de Koning
10:15	<i>Figurines in the Metal Ages</i>	Katharina Rebay-Salisbury
10:30	<i>Figurines as information carriers – symbols on prehistoric figurines</i>	Ewa Dutkiewicz
10:45	Discussion	
10:45-11:15	COFFEE BREAK	

Panel 5: Prehistoric figurines through the modern lens

11:15	<i>Prehistoric figurines and modern art</i>	Elisabeth von Samsonow
11:30	<i>Fake or real - Two Presumed Palaeolithic Female Figurines</i>	Sibylle Wolf
12:45	<i>Prehistoric Figurines in Popular Culture</i>	Karina Grömer
12:00	Discussion	
12:15	LUNCH	
13:30	Highlight - Venus II and III	

Panel 6: Reflection

14:30	<i>World café</i>	
16:00	BREAK	
17:00	Public Podium and Final Discussion "Venus oder Wahnsinn Venus or Madness"	
18:00	Lesung "Die Frau als Mensch"	Ulli Lust

Venue: Natural History Museum Vienna, Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Our partners:

