

## Languages of Ecology:

### Ancient and Early Modern Approaches to Nature

Colloquium at the Getty Research Institute

Getty Research Institute & Volkswagen Foundation

March 18, 2020 | Museum Lecture Hall

Organized by Jesús Muñoz Morcillo, GRI Volkswagen Foundation Fellow

***Languages of Ecology: Ancient and Early Modern Approaches to Nature*** focuses on the origins, variety, and transformations of notions of ecology in antiquity and the early modern period.

The colloquium aims to initiate an interdisciplinary debate about epistemic and literary-based image production that led to popular, symbolic, and new scientific notions of ecology. Studies into the foundations and traditions of environmental thinking and ancient experiences of nature, including eco-critical attitudes, enable a better understanding of the different languages of ecology that emerged and co-existed during the early modern period and beyond.



*Manus oculata* (Eyed Hand), from Andrea Alciati, *Emblematum Liber* (Patauij: Apud Petrum Paulum Tozzium, 1621). Getty Research Institute, 94-B1684.

Artists and humanists from different fields of knowledge, including anatomists, botanists, garden designers, mineralogists, and even authors of emblem books contributed to the development of a visual culture that built on multisensory experiences as well as the rhetorical evidence of vivid descriptions, natural philosophy, and environmental thinking from ancient times. The colloquium's speakers will discuss and question ancient ways of approaching and conceptualizing nature, the reception and transformation of different, sometimes even opposing, "ecologies," as well as the educational and moral dimensions of description and imitation of nature. This multi-layered dialogue conducted by experts in the fields of Classics, Renaissance Studies, and Art History will throw light on the complex relationship between the ancient polyvalent notion of nature and visual responses from the early modern period.

## PROGRAM

**1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks**

**Alexa Sekyra**, Head of GRI Scholars Program

**1:15 p.m. Session I**

*In the Air: Reading Atmosphere in Sappho*

**Alex Purves**, University of California, Los Angeles

*The Art of Description and the Origins of Visual Ecology*

**Jesús Muñoz Morcillo**, GRI Volkswagen Foundation Fellow

Chair: **Alexa Sekyra**, Head of GRI Scholars Program

**2:35 p.m. Session II**

*Automating Nature: Hero's Elemental Artifice from Alexandria to Renaissance Gardens*

**Courtney Ann Roby**, Cornell University, New York

*Material and Spiritual Conversions: Jacopo Ligozzi, and the Descrizione del Sacro Monte della Vernia (1612)*

**Bronwen Wilson**, University of California, Los Angeles

Chair: **Mónica Domínguez Torres**, Getty Research Institute Scholar

**3:55 p.m. Refreshments**

**4:15 p.m. Panel Discussion**

*Languages of Ecology between Antiquity and Modernity: Persistence and Transformation of Media and Ideas*

Chair: **Alan Braddock**, Getty Research Institute Scholar

**5:00 p.m. Reception**

Space is limited. Please RSVP by March 16, 2020 to [ScholarsAdministrator@getty.edu](mailto:ScholarsAdministrator@getty.edu)

