

PRESS RELEASE

Image as life: animism revived in wonders of vivification

When it comes to images, we are all animists. This still applies today, when the image is as alive as ever. So, we need to study historical cultures of *animation* to get a deeper sense of living imagery, past and present.

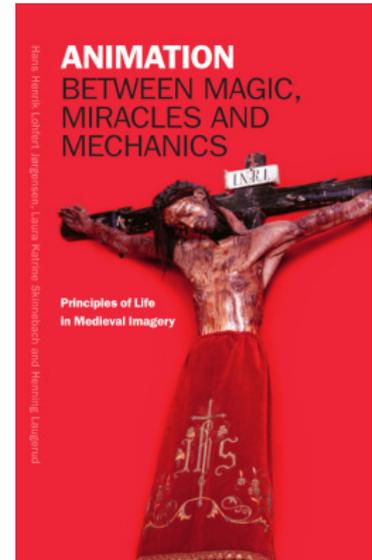
"Animation" does indeed imply that an ensouled image or empowered object is alive, endowed with *anima*: a "soul", "spirit" or "vital principle." In the Middle Ages, holy (or emphatically unholy) imagery often possessed a treasured (or dreaded) ability to come to life, to act and do things, to move and gesticulate, to speak and exude.

This animist book is about the different modes and principles of animation that made medieval images perform their spectacular wonders of locomotion and physical transformation. It ranges from mechanical machinery to works of magic and motor miracles. We engage with talking and bleeding crucifixes; we listen to ventriloquized oracles, moving Madonnas, robot Redeemers and automated devils. Such self-propelled movers enacted their natural or supernatural animations in monasteries and churches, in demonic technologies and occult treatises, in marvels of magic, miracles and mechanics.

With its return to medieval animism, this book will enliven anyone with an interest in the agency of images, medieval art and art history, body and spirit, material culture and ideas, anthropology and religion, theology and philosophy.

THE AUTHORS

Hans Henrik Lohfert Jørgensen, PhD, associate professor of Art History and Visual Culture at Aarhus University, Laura Katrine Skinnebach, PhD, associate professor of Art History and Visual Culture at Aarhus University, and Henning Laugerud, Dr. Art., professor of Art History and Visual Culture at the University of Bergen.



ANIMATION BETWEEN MAGIC, MIRACLES AND MECHANICS

By Hans Henrik Lohfert Jørgensen,
Laura Katrine Skinnebach and
Henning Laugerud

ISBN 978 87 7219 653 4

295 PAGES

349,95 DKK

RELEASE DATE: August 18 2023

CONTACT THE AUTHORS

Hans Henrik Lohfert Jørgensen

hh@cc.au.dk

+ 45 87 16 30 52

Laura Katrine Skinnebach

lks@cc.au.dk

Henning Laugerud

henning.laugerud@uib.no

+00 47 55 58 42 28

CONTACT THE PUBLISHER

unipress@unipress.au.dk

Phone +45 53 55 05 42

Aarhus University Press

Helsingforsgade 25

8200 Aarhus N, Denmark

tlf. + 45 53 55 05 42

unipress.dk