

Æstetisk Seminar

Æstetisk Seminar er tilrettelagt af Birgitte Stougaard Pedersen og Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Institut for Kommunikation og Kultur, Aarhus Universitet

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Plant fever: Countering Plant Deafness via 'Houseplant art'

We live in an era in which everything from the smallest flower to the broadest landscape is experienced and discussed in relation to environmental degradation unfolding on a global scale. One could even argue that plants have become primary sites where these translations between the local and the planetary, the human and the more-than-human, are experienced. In the research project Hidden Plant Stories, this contemporary sensibility – which we have elsewhere termed an “expanded aesthetics” – is developed into an approach for exploring houseplants in nineteenth-century paintings.

In this presentation, I will introduce this approach and show what happens when it is applied to specific artworks, collections of “houseplant art,” and curatorial practices, as we did in the exhibition trilogy Plantfever – The World on the Windowsill. I propose this work as a form of counterculture that not only challenges plant blindness, but also counters what I call “plant deafness”: our inability to listen to the layered stories of care, gender, class, coloniality, planetarity, and ecology in which both we and the houseplant have taken root.

Torsdag den 1. oktober 2026, Kl. 14:15-16:00

Kasernen, bygning 1584, lokale 126

Alle er velkomne/All are welcome