Vortrag und Quilt Club mit Dr. Jess Bailey (Edinburgh)

Community Activism Quilts: Histories & Practices

Donnerstag, 10.12.2026, 18 Uhr c.t., ESA-W R120

This lecture will share some of the queer and anti-racist histories of how communities have used the medium of the patchwork quilt to raise awareness, fundraise, agitate for change, and gather to preserve marginalized histories. Covering a range of historical contexts, we will focus on the ways communities in the past have used quilts that might provide inspiration for our own work today. Dr. Bailey will draw on her work as both an art historian and a quilter to explore how quilts lend themselves to alternative archives of community action. We will explore how the medium itself invites collectivity at different moments of the artistic process. This lecture accompanies a hands-on quilting workshop.

Quilt Club with the UHH-LGBTIQA* Network

Freitag, 11.12.2026, 10–16 Uhr c.t., ESA-W R120

Join Dr. Jess Bailey and Dr. Ivo Raband to quilt together as we discuss queer history! No previous sewing experience necessary. Quilts are traditionally finished in community as people gather to stitch the layers of the blanket together. Join us to explore this tradition with your own hands. Drawing inspiration from community activism quilts of the past, we will learn first-hand how this medium can provide a space of discourse, support, and creativity. All materials are provided. If you would like to bring small pieces of fabric, cut out shapes, or embroidery to add to our quilt please do. If you have other textile crafts which you would enjoy working on while we spend time together such as knitting, please bring them to Quilt Club!

CV

Dr. Jess Bailey is Lecturer for Premodern Art and Postgraduate Program Director for Global Premodern Art, MSc in the History of Art, University of Edinburgh. Her academic research focuses on the representation of gender, violence, sexuality, and disability in Medieval European Art. She also runs a public education project called *Public Library Quilts* where she uses her experience as a third-generation quilter to share the practices and histories of this understudied medium. She co-founded *Within the Frame*, a project working to preserve the skill and histories of hand quilting in a frame, an artistic practice listed as critically endangered by UNESCO. She is the author of *Many Hands Make a Quilt: Short Histories of Radical Quilting* (second edition 2024).

Organisiert von Dr. Ivo Raband und gefördert durch Mittel zur Gleichstellung des Fachbereichs Kulturwissenschaften.