

The Centre for the Study of the Flemish Primitives and its Corpus Series. A call for new Partnerships - summary

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This market table focused on the well-known publication series of the 'Corpus of the Flemish Primitives', of which 36 volumes have been dedicated to multiple collections of Early Netherlandish Paintings worldwide.

After a tradition of more than sixty years the format, style and even the existence of the Corpus series was discussed and questioned with colleagues from museum and other documentation centres, such as the RKD in The Hague, the Gemäldegalerie in Dresden, the Groeningemuseum in Bruges, the Stedelijk Museum Alkmaar and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The results of the market table were very positive. Existing contacts with the museum sector have been improved and new ones have been established. A part of the discussion concerned the question and relevance of a printed Corpus versus an online and open access version. In search for innovation, it might seem surprising that many colleagues insisted on the continuation of the printed version, taking as an example the format and the layout of the Corpus Mayer van den Bergh.

When discussing the kind of museums that have collaborated in past and future Corpus projects, it was pointed out that the Centre collaborated both with small museums like the Mayer van den Bergh in Antwerp as well as with large museums, like the Louvre in Paris. The next Corpus volume will be dedicated to the collections of Flemish Primitives in the Los Angeles Area. The precise nature of these partnerships have become more flexible in recent years. Different kinds of agreements can be made on co-editions, co-authorship, interdisciplinary research, scientific documentation and on copyright. Integrated as a specialized research unit of the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage, the Centre for the Study of the Flemish Primitives, has no commercial ambitions in its publishing activities. The Centre is mainly concerned to encourage the study of the Early Netherlandish Painting, both within Belgium as abroad. The CODART market table has offered an excellent platform to discuss the Corpus series and to present our partnership possibilities.