

Framing Fraktur: Celebrating Pennsylvania's German Art and Culture

Free Library of Philadelphia

Quill & Brush: Pennsylvania German Fraktur and Material Culture (2 March–18 July 2015)

Word & Image: Contemporary Artists Connect to Fraktur (2 March–14 June 2015)

Parkway Central Library Galleries and Dietrich Gallery, Rare Book Department



These exhibitions are part of the Free Library's *Framing Fraktur* project, funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage. *Quill & Brush* focuses on hand-drawn and printed fraktur along with important manuscripts, ephemera, and printed books that highlight the breadth and depth of the Free Library's renowned Pennsylvania German collection. *Word & Image* takes a unique approach to the study of traditional fraktur by connecting it to the work of contemporary artists who similarly combine images with texts. Additional support for *Framing Fraktur* has been provided by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art and The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. A fully illustrated catalogue featuring both exhibitions and edited by Judith Tannenbaum, with essays by Lisa Minardi and Matthew Singer, will be available in June 2015; distributed by University of Pennsylvania Press.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Drawn With Spirit: Pennsylvania German Fraktur from the Joan and Victor Johnson Collection (1 February–26 April 2015)

Special Exhibitions Gallery, Perelman Building

This exhibition celebrates the remarkable gift to the Philadelphia Museum of Art from Joan and Victor Johnson of more than two hundred and forty examples of fraktur which will significantly increase the breadth, depth and quality of the museum's collection. The fraktur will be complemented by decorative arts of the period including painted furniture, redware pottery, and metalwork to show how a common vocabulary of colorful and engaging motifs embellished all manner of domestic objects in rural Pennsylvania German households. A fully illustrated catalogue by Lisa Minardi will accompany the exhibition; distributed by Yale University Press.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

A Colorful Folk: Pennsylvania Germans & the Art of Everyday Life (1 March 2015–3 January 2016)

With more than 125 examples of fraktur, redware pottery, ironwork, painted furniture, and textiles, this exhibition explores the colorful world of the Pennsylvania Germans through everyday objects and groundbreaking new research. Highlights include fraktur, needlework, and clothing from the late Frederick S. Weiser collection, recently acquired by Winterthur; a painted chest decorated by fraktur artist Heinrich Otto on loan from a private collection; and a technical look at the pigments, tools, and techniques of making fraktur. Visitors can also enjoy guided tours of a dozen rooms furnished with more examples of Pennsylvania German art and architecture, as well as explore the Winterthur Library's collection of manuscripts, books, and printed ephemera. A fully illustrated catalogue by Lisa Minardi will accompany the exhibition.

Fraktur and the Everyday Lives of Germans in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic World, 1683–1850 (5–7 March 2015)

Taking advantage of the rare occasion when three major exhibitions of Pennsylvania German fraktur will be on view, this conference will bring together an international group of scholars to discuss how these small but exuberant documents celebrated important moments in their owners' personal and domestic lives, and the historical and cultural contexts in which they were created. Topics to be addressed range from patterns of migration, education, and religious practices to music, farming, medicine, and the occult. The conference is collaboratively organized by the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, with the participation of the German Society of Pennsylvania and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. For more information or to register, visit mceas.org/fraktur.html.