

WHAT FIRE DOES

An 'Earth Itself' Event | April 19-28, 2017



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: FIRE AND TRANSFORMATION IN EARLY MODERN EUROPEAN ART AND ALCHEMY



Earth, Water, Air, and Fire were conceptual building blocks in early modern European views of nature, and, at the same time, fire was an everyday agent of transformation in all realms of early modern life, from quotidian charcoal making and other forms of utilitarian knowledge about fire and fuel, to metalworking practices, to the language of alchemical allegory. The lecture will survey these areas and focus in on the mental world of metalworkers whose work with fire involved a material network of transformative substances, including red pigments, blood, gold, and lizards.

Featuring **Pamela Smith**, Columbia University
Chair: **Rachel Berwick**, RISD

**April 19, 2017 | 1:15pm | Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center
20 North Main Street, Providence**

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