

Looking at *Strange Creatures: A Travellers' Tails* seminar

Saturday 13 June, 10am-3.30pm

'An uncommon curious animal': the kangaroo between London and Botany Bay in the late eighteenth century

Professor Markman Ellis, Head of the School of English and Drama, Queen Mary University London

Markman Ellis is Professor of Eighteenth Century Studies at Queen Mary University of London. He is the author of *The Politics of Sensibility* (1996), *The History of Gothic Fiction* (2000), *The Coffee-House: a Cultural History* (2004), and *Empire of Tea* (out this week from Reaktion).

Other topics within eighteenth-century studies that he has addressed in articles and chapters

include: panoramas and 1790s spectacle in London; natural history and museums; georgic poetry and ideas of empire; travel writing and the rhetoric of wonder; human animal relations; slavery and sensibility. My current research is on the familiar letter and correspondence management systems in the eighteenth century, focussing on the archives of Elizabeth Montagu and Thomas Birch.

Art, Animals and Wonder: On some instances of craftivism in museums

Sarah Wade, PhD Student, Department of History of Art, UCL

Sarah Wade is completing her PhD *Reintroducing Wonder: Contemporary Artistic and Curatorial Engagements with Wildlife* in the Department of History of Art at UCL. Her research interrogates human-animal relations and representations of animals in contemporary art and museum display, exploring how these practices might evoke a sense of wonder reminiscent of responses to the early modern wunderkammer. She is interested in hunting trophies, conservation, anthropomorphism and ideas of 'becoming animal' in contemporary art.

Sovereignty and the Beast: Political Animals in Medieval Art

Dr. Robert Mills

Robert Mills is Reader in Medieval Art in the History of Art Department at UCL. Author of *Suspended Animation: Pain, Pleasure and Punishment in Medieval Culture* (2005) and *Seeing Sodomy in the Middle Ages* (2015), he is currently working on medieval representations of sovereignty and animality.

Street Art and Conservation

Street artist ATM

ATM paints endangered species on city walls, as a reminder of what species once lived here and could again with renewed habitat. So many once-common species are facing serious decline in this country. It is an emergency, urgent and immediate action is required. His aim is to inspire people to take local and practical action to help birds and other wildlife, for example by planting wildflowers and hedges or creating ponds.