



Jordan, Umm Er Rasas, St Stephen Church (detail)

The churches in Byzantine and Umayyad-era Jordan and Palestine attest to a fascinating change in visual culture in their significant alterations of mosaic pavements. The tesserae of animal and human figures were removed, shuffled, and reinserted to pixelate faces and other body parts.

In the relevant field of study these phenomena have so far been summarized as ›Iconophobia‹ and too narrowly considered as damage or loss of the initial archaeological record. Instead, the manipulations and restricted recognisability even reinforce the visual and medial capacities of these images and evoke a stronger artifactual presence. These noisy surfaces have a retarding effect on perception and perpetuate the process of manufacture. This perspective holds significant potential for future archaeological research concerning the aesthetics of abstraction, the interplay of ornament and figure, text and image, order and disorder.

The FRIAS Project Group *SurFace* explores new methodological approaches to describe, analyze and (hope)fully understand the complexity of such multi-layered image-artifact relations.

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FRIAS

FREIBURG INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
ALBERT-LUDWIGS-
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

FRIAS Project Group *SurFace*

Iconophobia? Rethinking Order and Disorder in the Mosaics of Jordan

31.01 – 01.02.2019

Workshop

Albertstraße 19
79104 Freiburg

**UNI
FREIBURG**

Thursday, 31st January 2019

Albertstraße 19, 79104 Freiburg
FRIAS-Hörsaal (Alte Anatomie)

16:00 Fabian Stroth (Freiburg)
Introduction

Panel 1: Ornament - Figure

Chair: Sandro Jung (Shanghai)

16:30 Sebastian Watta (Erlangen)
**Zeichen im Raum. Hierarchie
und Raumheiligkeit in den
kirchlichen Bodenmosaiken
des Nahen Ostens**

17:15 Christian Spies (Cologne)
**Streitfall Ornament. Weder
marginal noch universal**

Keynote Lecture

18:00 Henry Maguire (Johns Hopkins)
**Aniconic Designs as Content
in the Seventh- and Eighth-
Century Mosaics of the Holy
Land**

19:00 Reception (FRIAS Lounge)

Friday, 1st February 2019

Albertstraße 19, 79104 Freiburg
FRIAS-Hörsaal (Alte Anatomie)

Panel 2: Contexts

Chair: Przemyslaw Marciniak (Silesia)

9:00 Robert Schick (Mainz) **When did
the Deliberate Damage take
Place?**

9:45 Daniel Reynolds (Birmingham)
**Contextualising Palestinian
Iconoclasm**

10:30 Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)

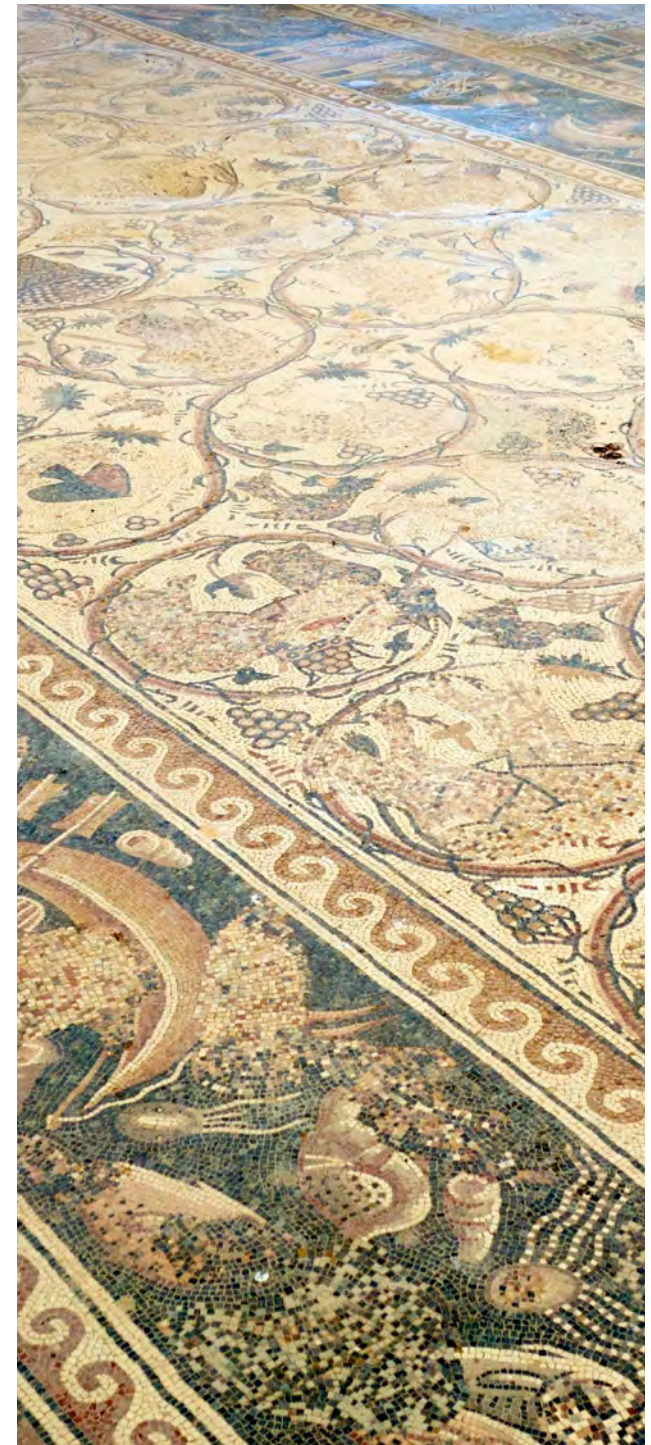
Panel 3: SurFaces

Chair: Johannes von Moltke (Michigan)

11:00 Basema Hamarneh (Vienna)
**Iconophobia in the Ghassanid
Church Complex of St Sergius
in Nitl**

11:45 Fabian Stroth (Freiburg)
**Palimpsest und Bildrest.
Zur Prägnanz von
Bildmodifikationen**

12:15 Final Discussion



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