

EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

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Christoffel Jegher and his woodcuts
The status of the artist in early seventeenth-century
natural history

The Antwerp-born engraver Christoffel Jegher (1596-1652/3) is a noted figure in the history of seventeenth-century Flemish art mainly due to his collaboration with Peter Paul Rubens during the 1630s, which resulted in a series of nine large woodcuts – the only woodcuts that Rubens ever produced. This paper will explore the contrast between this prominent partnership and a lesser-known aspect of Jegher's career as a woodcutter: his association with the Plantin-Moretus press and, in particular, his involvement in the illustration of a natural history treatise by the Spanish Jesuit scholar Juan Eusebio Nieremberg, *Historia naturae*, published in 1635. The aim is to discuss Jegher's role as a multifaceted image-maker in a context marked by the appreciation of natural knowledge and its visual manifestations but also dominated by the hierarchies of artistic practice.

José Ramón Marcaida is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Universidad de Deusto (Spain). His work focuses on the history of early modern Iberian science and its connection with Renaissance and Baroque visual culture. His most recent publication explores the representation of the bird of paradise in the art of Peter Paul Rubens and his contemporaries.

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