



**“Any work showing originality will be welcome”
The Archive of Children’s Drawings, Stiftung Pestalozzianum,
Zurich and Its Japanese Drawings**

Dr. Anna Lehninger, UZH
Prof. Dr. Hans Bjarne Thomsen, UZH

23. April 2013, 17:30-19:00, Room KOL-E-21
Main Building, University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, Zürich
Lectures will be held in English

Abstract

The *Archive of Children’s Drawings* is part of the collections of the Stiftung Pestalozzianum and contains about 50'000 drawings by children and young adults from the 20th century. The talk by Dr Lehninger gives insight into the unique Swiss and international collections that were brought to Zurich from 1932 onwards, coming mostly from school exhibitions and international drawing competitions. Professor Thomsen will then introduce a special collection within the *Archive of Children’s Drawings*, which features over 600 drawings from Japan. The works are carefully documented and point to an extensive network of progressive art teachers and schools across Japan that in turn drew their inspiration from forward-thinking educators, such as Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi.



Biographies

Anna Lehninger studied History of Art at the University of Vienna from 1997 to 2003, and between 2004 and 2006 she curated several exhibitions on Ida Maly. From 2004 to 2009, she wrote her doctoral dissertation at the University of Bern on *Embroidered Autobiographies of Women in Psychiatric Asylums in the 19th and 20th Century*. Since 2012 she has been a post-graduate fellow at the Institute for Popular Culture Studies at the University of Zürich on the topic of *Commercial Drawing Competitions for Children in Switzerland between 1935 and 1985*.

Hans Bjarne Thomsen is the chair of the Section for East Asian Art at the University of Zürich and teaches and researches the art histories of East Asia. His section is presently engaged in the archival and documentary research of Swiss collections of East Asian art and culture, of which the Stiftung Pestalozzianum collection is an example.

Above Image: *Processions of Lanterns* (c. 1931). Response by a Swiss child to the question: "What do you associate with the word 'Japan'?"