



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Off the Page* Opens March 24 at the Lloyd Library and Museum**

The Lloyd Library and Museum and Meddling with Nature are proud to present *Off the Page*, an exhibition that brings to life the 300-year-old work of Maria Sibylla Merian. Taxidermist Jeremy Johnson combines preserved plants, animals and insect specimens inspired by Merian's illustrations with engaging behind the scenes history about her work. Johnson's three-dimensional replicas accompany

original illustrations and books by Merian from the Lloyd's collection.

Considered one of the greatest botanical illustrators, a pioneering woman of science, and the world's first ecologist, Maria Sibylla Merian traveled from the Netherlands to South America in the late 1600s with her daughter to study, collect, and illustrate the native insects and plants as well as their relationship to each other. Noted for her discovery of metamorphosis 150 years before Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, Merian's paintings and engravings also predate John James Audubon's *Birds of America* by 125 years. Once back in the Netherlands, Merian produced a large illustrated elephant folio of her findings, geared to the common person rather than exclusively for the scientific community.

Coinciding with the 300th anniversary of Maria Sibylla Merian's death, *Off the Page* provides a rare opportunity to view Merian's prints through a new lens that captures her life, challenges, and the state of science in the early 1700s. The exhibit showcases the Lloyd Library's rare collection of her work in conjunction with Meddling with Nature's experience in taxidermy and plant and insect preservation.

Off the Page is free and open to the public. The exhibit opens on March 24 at the Lloyd Library and Museum, 917 Plum Street, and kicks off with an opening reception at 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. with refreshments, interactive discussions, and demonstrations by Meddling with Nature.

For more information about Maria Sibylla Merian, see [A Pioneering Woman of Science Re-Emerges After 300 Years.](#)



The Lloyd Library and Museum, *Bringing Science, Art and History to Life*, is free and open to the public. The Library hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information or to schedule a visit contact the Library at (513) 721-3707 or email contact@lloydlibrary.org, or visit LloydLibrary.org.