



28th Medieval Postgraduate Colloquium

Intersections: Entanglements with Medieval and Renaissance Textiles, 1100-1550

During the Middle Ages and Renaissance, textiles wrapped up and coated walls, people, furniture, and objects. They provided omnipresent, and often complex, symbolic and visual demarcations of spaces. *Diplicare*, the root of display, is in unfolding: so much of the frameworks of how we surround ourselves are rooted in practices using cloth. The value of these textiles, both in their materiality and craftsmanship, exceeded that of many other artforms which have been privileged by scholars. Textiles were often disregarded in art historical study, considered to be visually unappealing or discredited in previous centuries as part of the decorative arts. In addition, only a fraction of the textiles that functioned in these spaces survive, many of which are in a fragmented state.

In recent years, textiles have received more attention in art historical studies, and blockbuster exhibitions on tapestries have made the importance of textiles clear to a wider public. There are, however, still many new angles from which we can interrogate and

discuss textiles which can enrich, connect, and reframe not only textile history but wider research subjects in Medieval and Renaissance studies.

In this symposium we would like to draw together varying angles of research through their intersections with textiles, in whatever capacity. The theme of this symposium centres on how Medieval and Renaissance textiles, real and depicted, combine, overlap or intersect in different ways. In short, it aims to interrogate how textiles get entangled with other people, arts, materials, objects and functions.

Organised by Jessica Gasson (The Courtauld) and Julia van Zandvoort (The Courtauld).

Generously supported by Sam Fogg.

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Monday 22nd May 2023, 09:00am -18:30pm BST

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Free, booking essential

Lecture Theatre 2, Vernon Square Campus

Programme

9.00 - Opening remarks

Secular Textiles

9.15 - 10:40 Panel 1 - Networks and trade /collecting of textiles

Key Note Samuel Cohn

Textiles, Piety, and Memory in Late Medieval Tuscany

Julia van Zandvoort

'Per la gran furia di compratori': Obtaining Flemish Tapestries in Sixteenth-century Italy, the

case of the Van der Molen firm (1538-1544)

Nina Reiss - Trojan War tapestries (production / trade)

The 'intersecting geographies' of the tapestries of the Trojan War - tapestry production between Paris and Tournai

10.40-11.00 Panel discussion

11.00-11.30 Tea Break

11:35 - 13:00 Panel 2 - Textiles in secular settings

Chiara Stombellini

(Re-)Weaving Ritual Paths: Silk Textiles as Markers of Ceremonial Space in Late Medieval Venice

Pauline Devriese

The stink of the cities - secondary scenting of domestic textiles in Europe

Karina Pawlow

Textile and glass interweaved. Entanglements of two arts in Renaissance Venice

13.00-13.20 Panel discussion

13.20-14.20 Lunch break

Religious Textiles

14:25 - 15:50 Panel 3 - Textiles and ritual function / iconography

Jessica Gasson

Tapestries on the altar: exploring the design and use of the Louvre Virgins of the Living Water and the Sens Three Coronation tapestries

Julie Glodt

Overlapping Incarnation and Consecration Textiles, Images and Gestures around the Cluny Museum's Corporal Case (13th century)

Aimee Clark

"The Garden of the Incarnation and the Conversion of the Heart: The Mass of Saint Gregory"

15.50-16.10 Panel discussion

16.10-16.30 Coffee break

16:35 - 17:55 Panel 4 - Reassembling Religious Textiles

Mireia Castano Martine

Fragmentation and reconstruction of an embroidered altar frontal

Jeroen Reyniers

Many layers of textiles. The relic treasure of Herkenrode in Hasselt (Belgium) revealed through material technical research

Jordan Quill

At the Intersection of Political and Ritual functions of textiles: Sensory Experiences of Textiles in the Sumtsek at Alchi, Ladakh

17.55-18.15 Panel discussion

18.15-18.25 Closing remarks

18.30 Wine reception

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