

The Material Sense of Things in the Middle Ages (CAA, Los Angeles, 22–25 Feb 12)

CAA 2012, Los Angeles California, Feb 22–25, 2012

Deadline: May 2, 2011

Christopher Lakey

Call for Papers

CAA 2012 Session Sponsored by the International Center of Medieval Art

Res et significatio: The Material Sense of Things in the Middle Ages

Aden Kumler (University of Chicago); and Christopher Lakey (Johns Hopkins University).

In his landmark 1958 essay, "Vom geistigen Sinn des Wortes im Mittelalter," Friederich Ohly described the medieval meaning of things (Dingbedeutung) as authorized by scriptural exegesis, but exceeding the boundaries of sacred texts to include monuments, artifacts, and materials. Taking Ohly's analysis as a point of departure, we invite papers that explore the medieval signification of materials and material things—be they divinely created and/or made by human hands. Can we speak of an iconology of materials in the period? What can the use of materials and the facture of objects tell us about the signifying interplay of materials and forms in the period? How might medieval uses of materials shape or respond to contemporary understandings of the material world and of materiality itself? We invite papers that engage material- or thing-signification in the western and Byzantine Middle Ages through material- or object-focused case studies, diachronic analyses, or more theoretical modes of reflection.

Please send all supporting materials electronically to akumler@uchicago.edu and clakey@jhu.edu by May 2nd, 2011

Please Include:

- 1) An abstract of 1-2 double-spaced, typed pages
- 2) A letter of interest, including CAA membership status
- 3) A current CV, including summer addresses and telephone numbers if applicable
- 4) A completed CAA Session Participation Proposal form, located at the

end of the 2012 CAA CFP Brochure

<http://conference.collegeart.org/2012/>

Reference:

CFP: The Material Sense of Things in the Middle Ages (CAA, Los Angeles, 22-25 Feb 12). In: Arthist.net, Mar 14, 2011 (accessed Mar 15, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1066>>.