Fragmented Bodies: Visualizing body parts in the material cultures of Asia

Deadline: Mar 8, 2016

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Call for Papers: Fragmented Bodies: Visualizing body parts in the material cultures of Asia

We are seeking approximately seven papers for a proposal for the 2018 special edition of Ars Orientalis. Our proposed edition will address, over a vast chronological and geographical spectrum, the representation and visualization of body parts in the material cultures of Asia, and will investigate their role in the formation of symbols, relics, and objects of ritual in architecture, painting, sculpture, film, print media, manuscripts, photography, arms and armor, and fashion.

Art historical studies on the body have been dominated by the discussion of figural representation, or lack thereof, and the iconic versus aniconic in relation to religious practices and belief systems across Asia. We believe that by moving away from the body as a whole, and focusing on body parts in isolation, this journal edition will contribute to understudied aspects of the body. Thus, the aim of this special edition of Ars Orientalis will be to provide, and promote, an interdisciplinary and transregional forum for scholars investigating issues that may include, but are not limited to:

• Body parts as symbols in societal and cultural practices

• Art historical theories relating to body parts and their representations

• Relics and rituals; the role of the body in the invention and appropriation of religious traditions

• History and evolution of representations of body parts

• Body parts that evoke and/or embody saints and deities

• Presence or lack of body parts, dismemberment

• Erotic representations of body parts

• Disfigurement, body marks and tattoos

• Illustration of body parts in scientific treatises

• War, violence, and the fragmentation of the body

Please send your abstracts of no more than 500 words, a few sample images, selected bibliography, and your CV to: fragmentedbodies2018@gmail.com by March 8, 2016. You will be notified by

March 10, 2016 if your paper has been selected for the proposal.

We look forward to receiving your submission.

With best wishes,

Peyvand Firouzeh, Art Histories and Aesthetic Practices Postdoctoral Fellow, Forum Transregionale Studien and Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin

Rachel Parikh, Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial and Collections Specialist Fellow, Department of Arms and Armor, the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Imma Ramos, Curator of the South Asia collections, the British Museum, London

Reference:
CFP: Fragmented Bodies: Visualizing body parts in the material cultures of Asia. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 26, 2016 (accessed Nov 19, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/12309>.