

## Communicating with the Sacred (Kalamazoo, 10–13 May 12)

47th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, May 10–13, 2012

Deadline: Sep 15, 2011

Sarah Blick

Call for papers for the 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies

Session:

Communicating with the Sacred. Visual Puns, Rebuses, and Codes: Words and Images in the Art of the Later Middle Ages (1200-1600)

"A good pun is its own reword." Ooo, bad – but artists and patrons during the later Middle Ages did not agree with our modern assessment. Evidence for their interest can be found in images that drew on delicate, sometimes ribald, and often scholarly word play. Inventive etymology, creative linkages of homonyms, and lively rebuses appear in sculpture, painting, and even architecture. Codes, secret and otherwise, also appeared. This session seeks papers that explore the relationship between word and image and how later medieval audiences responded to and understood such interplay. While much scholarship has been done in this area for manuscript illumination, we are interested in similar studies that are applied to other media, especially sculpture whose imagery and message can be correlated to their architectural space.

Please send your abstract and a paper proposal form by September 15, 2011

<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/submissions/index.html>

to Sarah Blick at [blicks@kenyon.edu](mailto:blicks@kenyon.edu)

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Reference:

CFP: Communicating with the Sacred (Kalamazoo, 10-13 May 12). In: ArtHist.net, Jun 17, 2011 (accessed Dec 26, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/1552>>.