

Fashioned from Holy Matter (Florence, 6–7 Jul 17)

Florence, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Palazzo Grifoni
Budini Gattai, Via dei Servi 51, Jul 6–07, 2017

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut, Kunsthistorisches Institut
in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut

Fashioned from Holy Matter

A Cross-Cultural Workshop on the Semantics of Image-Making

Concept and organization: Annette Hoffman and Jessica N. Richardson

This workshop draws attention to a particular type of image, which has not been studied yet as a group: images that were made of or shaped from holy matter, such as earth, stone, blood, sweat or wood. These materials might have been used as a support for painting, colour itself, as a modelling substance or as building material. The image-relic relationship – in particular, the insertion of relics into images/icons or reliquaries – and the miraculous properties of images in general have been the subject of sustained scholarly interest. In addition, the material properties of images and materiality, more broadly, are now major areas of study in both art history and a number of related disciplines. Yet little work has been devoted to the creative use of matter already perceived as holy or, vice versa, the later attribution of holiness to the substance of images.

The workshop seeks to explore from a cross-cultural and interreligious perspective how holy material becomes semantically charged and/or redefined through the process of artistic creation. How is meaning attained through the interaction between holy substance and image and how is the value of the holy matter communicated to various audiences (through inscriptions or legends for instance)? Does the image authenticate its holiness and, if so, what visual strategies were used? How might written descriptions or representations of images also make this holy presence known? A related objective of the workshop will be to analyse the implications of meaning: how does it contribute to the function, use and activation of such images – in both sanctioned and unofficial devotional and ritual practices –, which might be informed by possible transcultural and transhistorical dynamics. Further, how might the meanings ascribed to fashioned matter express apotropaic, pharmacological or other concerns?

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 6 JULY

9:00

Welcome

Gerhard Wolf

9:10

Introduction

When Sacred Substances Matter: Preliminary Remarks

Annette Hoffmann and Jessica N. Richardson (Florence)

Chair: Felix Jäger

9:30

Ornament and Amulet: Pre-Roman Figured Amber Pendants

Faya Causey (Washington)

10:15

Ancient Cameo as Passion Relic: The Reception of the Gemma Augustea at Saint-Sernin of Toulouse

Catherine Fernandez (Princeton)

11:00 Coffee Break

Chair: Mabi Angar

11:30

The Materiality of Classic Maya Artifacts

Sanja Savkic (Berlin)

12:15

Icons Made of Relics: Creating Holy Matter in Byzantium

Alexei Lidov (Moscow)

13:00 Lunch Break

15:00

Visit to view the Paliotto di San Zenobi, Museo dell'Opera dell Duomo (speakers only)

Jessica N. Richardson (Florence)

18:30

Evening Lecture

Liquid Holy Sites

Michele Bacci (Fribourg)

FRIDAY, 7 JULY

Chair: Marco Musillo

9:30

Eating the Image: Customs, Rites and Legends Concerning 'Iconophagia' in Europe, East Asia and Melanesia

Hans Wernher von Kittlitz (Frankfurt)

10:15

Ink and Buddhist Texts in Middle Period China and East Asia

Kaiqi Hua (Vancouver)

11:00 Coffee Break

Chair: Sinem Casale

11:30

Written on a Bodhi Tree Leaf

Michele Matteini (New York)

12:15

From Embodied to Mediated Experiences: Reuses of Sacred Wood in Ottoman Artifacts

Gül Kale (Montreal)

13:00 Lunch Break

Chair: Corinna Gallori

14:30

The Semantics of Transcendence in Havana: The Making of Relic-Images in Cuban Santería and in Everyday Revolutionary Life

Elena Zapponi (Rome)

15:15

Flesh and Stone: Interpreting the Sacred in Dakota and Euro-American Art

Annika Kelsey Johnson (Pittsburgh / Washington)

16:00 Coffee Break

Chair: Peyvand Firouzeh

16:30

The Power of Architectural Images in Medieval Deccan India and Beyond

Subhashini Kaligotla (Berlin)

17:15

Image and Matter: Conclusions

Gerhard Wolf

17:30

Final Discussion

Location

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
Max-Planck-Institut
Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai
Via dei Servi 51
50122 Florence

Free admission until capacity is reached.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Internet: <http://www.khi.fi.it>

Newsletter: <http://www.khi.fi.it/newsletter>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/khi.fi.it/>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/khiflorenz>

Reference:

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