

Ideals and Nations: reception of Winckelmann's aesthetics (Oxford, 29 Jun 18)

Sir Michael Dummet Lecture Theatre, Christ Church College, University of Oxford,
Oxford, UK, Jun 29, 2018

Cristina Neagu

Ideals and Nations: New perspectives on the European reception of Winckelmann's aesthetics

To commemorate the Winckelmann anniversaries 2017/2018, Christ Church Library is preparing an exhibition and series of events in collaboration with the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford and the Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology, University of Reading (a particularly appropriate partnership, since the University of Reading owes its origins to an extension college - University Extension College, Reading - founded by Christ Church in 1892).

Like many antiquarians of his day, the German art historian and archaeologist Johann Joachim Winckelmann (1717–1768) first learned about the ancient world through immersion in literature. As a teacher then librarian in his native Germany, Winckelmann encountered the classics primarily through literary texts, as well as the souvenirs—coins, gems and figurines—that Grand Tourists and other travellers had brought north from their visits to Italy. Once he arrived in Rome, where he rose to prominence as Prefect of Antiquities in the Vatican, Winckelmann studied the remains of Greek, Graeco-Roman and Roman art on a larger scale. Through personal contacts, letters and other writings, Winckelmann influenced his and subsequent generations of scholars, aesthetes, collectors, craftsmen and artists both within and beyond Italy.

The exhibition will be launched with a symposium on "Ideals and Nations: New perspectives on the European reception of Winckelmann's aesthetics".

Keynote speakers: Professor Elisabeth Décultot (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) and Professor Alex Potts (University of Michigan).

The event is generously sponsored by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, Medieval and Modern Languages Oxford, and Christ Church.

For general information about the events, please contact Dr Cristina Neagu (cristina.neagu@chch.ox.ac.uk).

For further details about the symposium, please contact Dr Lucy Russell (levrussell@outlook.com) and Dr Fiona Gatty (fiona.gatty@materials.ox.ac.uk).

Symposium programme:

09.30 Registration

10.15 Welcome

The Very Revd Prof. Martyn Percy, The Dean of Christ Church
Dr Fiona Gatty (Oxford) and Dr Lucy Russell (Oxford)

10.30 Session 1: Keynote Lecture

Professor Alex Potts (Michigan): 'Winckelmann: Historicity and Multiple Temporalities in the Art of Antiquity'

11.15 Coffee & Biscuits

11.45 Session 2

1: France

Dr Fiona Gatty (Oxford): 'Clothing the Ideal; Winckelmann and the costume dictionaries of late eighteenth-century France'

2: Italy

Dr Lucy Russell (Oxford): 'The Winckelmann Dilemma: Italy's nationalistic response, 1755-1834'

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Session 3

3: Germany

TBC: 'From Winckelmania to the Wehrmacht: Receptions of Winckelmann in the German-speaking world'

4: England

Dr Helen Slaney (Roehampton): 'Winckelmann in English Travel Writing'

15.45 Tea & Biscuits

16.15 Session 4: Keynote lecture

Professor Elisabeth Décultot (Halle): 'History of Art and Ethnology. Winckelmann's panorama of the Ancient peoples and its reception in the 18th century'

17.30 Drinks reception to launch the Ure Museum (University of Reading)/Christ Church Library collaborative exhibition: 'Winckelmann in Italy: Curiosity and connoisseurship in the 18th-century gentleman's study'

19.30 Conference dinner

The exhibition will be open in the Upper Library from 29 June to 26 October 2018. Visiting hours:
Monday – Friday: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm; 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Reference:

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