

## Diversity & Deviance: Art, Commerce & Religion in Antwerp (Dresden 12–13 Dec 11)

Dresden, Dec 12–13, 2011

Registration deadline: Dec 8, 2011

Jessica Buskirk

12-13.12.2011

Workshop:

Diversity and Deviance: Art, Commerce and Religion in 16th century Antwerp

In histories of Antwerp, the sixteenth century is known as the city's "Golden Age." During Antwerp's short century, to which the Spanish retaking of the city in 1585 provides a definitive end, the city experienced a sweeping upheaval – economic, religious and artistic. Processes of economic rationalization transformed day-to-day life; systems of trade and finance became more complex, facilitating a more efficient movement of goods, currency, and people through the city in ever-greater numbers. Within half a century, the city became a kind of European "économie-monde" (Fernand Braudel). The newly expanded possibilities of trade opened up new markets to Antwerp artists, who supplied global demand by streamlining their own processes of production. However, there are diverging storylines in this account of cultural and economic standardization: the process of confessional pluralization, which brought with it practices of tolerance but also greater persecution of minorities, and the birth of artistic genres.

The goal of this workshop is to investigate the relationship between the aforementioned processes of standardization and pluralization in sixteenth-century Antwerp, foregrounding the city's position as a crossroads – not just for the movement of goods but also ideas. At this moment of early capitalist development, the city offered its residents a "market of beliefs" as well as an art market. Just as the believer had his or her choice of religious affiliation, so the producers and consumers of pictorial art also had more options than ever before, with a set of new genres emphasizing the comic or low-brow dimension of everyday life. Workshop papers will explore the categories of difference and non-conformity in art, religion, and commerce, and how diversity was perceived by contemporaries. Which forms of economic, artistic and religious innovation and diversity were accepted, or even celebrated, and which were labeled as deviance or subversion?

Program

12.12.2011

9.30h

Welcome: Gerd Schwerhoff (Dresden)

9.45h-10.15h

Jessica Buskirk / Eric Piltz (Dresden)

"Introduction: Diversity and Deviance in Antwerp's Golden Age. Interrelations of Art, Commerce and Religion"

10.15h - 11.15h

Guido Marnef (Antwerpen)

"Art and Religion in 16th-century Antwerp: an Analysis of a Changing Relationship"

11.30h-12.30h

Anne-Laure van Bruaene (Gent)

"A Counterfeit Community. Rederijkers, Festive Culture and Print in Renaissance Antwerp"

12.30h-14.00h

lunch

14.00h - 15.00h

Jürgen Müller (Dresden)

"Bruegel and the Question of the Subversive Image"

15.00h-16.00h

Larry Silver (Philadelphia)

"Prince of Peace: Pieter Bruegel, the Incarnation, and Visual Exegesis"

16.15h-17.15h

Maarten van Dijck (Rotterdam)

"Between Urban Policy and State Formation. The Social Discipline of Cultural Practices in Sixteenth-Century Antwerp"

13.12.2011

9.00h-10.00h

Edward Wouk (New York)

"A Professional Portrait? Frans Floris's Allegory of the Trinity."

10.00h-11.00

Jessica S. Stewart (Berkeley):

"Earthly Divides: Celestial Visions and Subterrestrial Investments in the Collection of Lucas Rem."

11.15h-11.30h

Comment: Michael North (Greifswald)

External discussants: Carsten Brall (Mainz), Martin Skoeries (Leipzig)

11.30-12.15h

Final discussion

Reference:

CONF: Diversity & Deviance: Art, Commerce & Religion in Antwerp (Dresden 12-13 Dec 11). In: ArtHist.net, Dec 7, 2011 (accessed Jun 13, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/2379>>.