

A Casa. Renaissance Interior (London/Florence)

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CALL FOR PAPERS:

'A CASA: PEOPLE, SPACES AND OBJECTS IN THE RENAISSANCE INTERIOR'

A Two-Part Symposium:

Victoria & Albert Museum London, 7 - 8 May, 2004

Villa I Tatti Florence, 3 - 4 June, 2004

This is the final symposium of a series related to 'The Domestic Interior in Italy, 1400-1600', a research project launched in 2003 culminating in a book and major exhibition at the V&A in 2006. The aim of this two-part symposium is to explore the non-princely urban house in Renaissance Italy as a setting for the development of art and culture, and for the unfolding of everyday life. In particular, we want to stimulate research and discussion that will evoke the relationships between objects, people and spaces in the casa. We intend these two events to be genuinely interdisciplinary, breaking down the boundaries between the study of the physical, aesthetic aspects of the house and the more socio-historic, anthropological approaches to domestic life.

An international group of scholars (largely funded by a Collaborative Research Grant from the Getty Grant Program) has engaged in collaborative research into this area over the past year, focussing in particular on defining the character and look of the Northern and Central Italian casa, and exploring the relationships between its

rooms,
contents and inhabitants. Everyday life and rituals have also been of central concern:

topics such as dining, entertainment and sociability, and the marking of life events

have formed a key part of the group's work. Furnishings, objects and decoration associated with these and many other activities survive, and our aim now is to integrate evaluation of their considerable aesthetic impact with greater understanding of their audiences and consumers.

We wish now to broaden the scope of this research with the two symposia.

Alongside

papers from members of the existing research group, we are seeking the participation of

other scholars working in the field. We are interested in a broad range of subjects,

but we are particularly keen to include contributions on:

- the relationship between the casa and the art and culture of the city
- the role of decorative art objects and prints in the home
- women's work and men's work in the home (domestic activities such as sewing, house-keeping and chores; clerical, business and political activities); the house as a centre of production
- health and hygiene in the home
- domestic devotion
- literary representations of the casa

Proposals for 30 minute papers are invited from scholars from a variety of academic

disciplines. Please send an abstract of 250-500 words, together with a brief curriculum

vitae, to Vicki Coulson, Research Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, South

Kensington, London SW7 2RL, v.coulson@vam.ac.uk; Tel. +44 (0)207 942 2576 The deadline

for submissions is September 30, 2003.

Reference:

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