

## Cultural Aesthetics of Porcelain (Boston 22-25 February 2006)

Michael Yonan

### CALL FOR PAPERS

College Art Association

Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, 22-25 February 2006

"The Cultural Aesthetics of Porcelain in the Eighteenth Century"

Co-Chairs:

Alden Cavanaugh, Indiana State University

Michael Yonan, Saint Louis University

This session seeks to investigate the cultural significance of porcelain, through its physical and aesthetic qualities, as part of a larger nexus of concepts about beauty, elegance, and social identity in eighteenth-century culture. We are also interested in the idea of geographically specific behaviors related to porcelain objects. Some questions to be addressed include interpreting porcelain's bright beauty as a metaphor for personal or cultural identities; the relationship between porcelain and touch, both in its evocation of smooth skin as well as the physical sensations it provides during handling; porcelain's simultaneous strength and delicacy, which render it both fragile and unusually strong; porcelain's relationship to space and environment, and its use as an inspiration for architecture; porcelain as a hard canvas upon which images can be situated; porcelain as a conveyor of light, not only through its translucence but also glazing; and lastly porcelain as a magical, semi-mystical substance whose creation involves transforming dirt into brilliant ceramic through exposure to fire. By examining how visual qualities influenced the potential interpretations of porcelain, this session seeks to expand the range of critical frameworks applied to eighteenth-century decorative arts.

Send proposals to:

Alden Cavanaugh

Department of Art

Indiana State University

Fine Arts 108

ArtHist.net

Terre Haute, IN 47809  
aralden@isugw.indstate.edu

and

Michael Yonan  
Department of Fine and Performing Arts  
Saint Louis University  
221 N. Grand Blvd.  
St Louis, MO 63103  
yonanme@slu.edu

Submission deadline: 13 May 2005. Electronic submissions are welcome.

For more information about the conference, consult the CAA website at  
<http://www.collegeart.org/conference/2006.html>

Reference:

CFP: Cultural Aesthetics of Porcelain (Boston 22-25 Febr 06). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 8, 2005 (accessed Jul 7, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/27108>>.