

Summer Workshop 2006 KHI, Florence

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Summer Workshop 2006

The German Institute for the History of Art in Florence/Max-Planck-Institute is organizing a Summer Workshop in Siena from September 17 to 24, 2006 entitled

Siena: Orders of Space, Orders of Images

(13th to 15th centuries)

Deadline: April 1, 2006

"... senza ordine non si fa alcuna cosa buona, e considerato che voi sete coloro che avete a dare a tucta la città ordine e regola ..." (from the minutes of a meeting of the Senese council in 1357)

Siena, which to this day preserves the structural order of its 13th and 14th century urban core, was concerned, from a very early stage, with the concept of creating a beautiful city. The Sienese council did not only focus on the planning of monumental buildings such as the Palazzo Pubblico (beg. 1297) and the Piazza del Campo or on the reconstruction of the Duomo. Rather, through the use of strict building legislation the government pursued an aesthetic configuration of urban form through forms of standardization. The earliest statutes of this type date from 1262. Presumably before 1370, the magistracy concerned with public order and beauty (l'ufficio dell'ornata) was established in order to control the design of streets. Considering Siena as example, this one-week Summer Workshop will explore the creation and the use of urban space. It will analyze visual orders that turn urban space into an aesthetic fabric that contributes to the meaning of political and religious spatial practices. The seminar will deal with early urbanism in Siena, the general structure of the city, the spatial order of sites and streets, and the relations between centre and periphery. Furthermore, papers given by participants will focus on the architecture and organization of prominent architectural ensembles and selected palaces. In addition to urbanism and architecture, Sienese painting of the 13th to 15th centuries will also be considered within the themes of the seminar. Special attention will be given to, on the one hand, images of the city and, on the other, representations of the Virgin. Such works will be considered as instruments for the establishment of communal identity and

relations of power. The course will not only deal with images within the city, but will also follow their trajectory in the wider context of Sienese territory, taking Massa Marittima as an example for the analysis of the political dimension of pictures.

This Summer Workshop welcomes students and younger scholars from abroad, including graduate students, doctoral candidates and scholars who are embarking on post-doctoral research. The number of participants is restricted to thirteen and each is expected to contribute to the success of the course not only by presenting a paper but also by actively participating in discussions, which will be held in English and German. Papers can be given in either language, although an understanding of German will help significantly. Accommodation will be paid by the Institute, which will also reimburse participants for half of the cost of travel and provide a per diem.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and a letter of recommendation. Graduate students not yet involved in dissertation research should attach a summary of their course work. For pre- and post-doctoral applicants, a brief summary of their research project (250-300 words) is requested. Topic suggestions will be provided but all participants are encouraged to include their own proposal (250-300 words), which we will try to include in the program. Applications should be sent to Prof. Dr. Gerhard Wolf, Director, Kunsthistorisches Institut/Max-Planck-Institut, Via Giuseppe Giusti 44, I-50121 Firenze, Italy before April 1, 2006. The envelope should be marked with "Summer Workshop 2006". Notifications of acceptance will be sent out at the end of April.

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