

## Passions – Early modern Netherlands (Ontario Nov 06)

Stephanie Dickey

### CALL FOR PAPERS

"Motions of the mind"

Representing the passions in the arts of the early modern Netherlands

Symposium, Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18, 2006

Queen's University and Agnes Etherington Art Centre,

Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Historians of southern European art have paid considerable attention to the representation of emotions, psychological presence and interiority in portraits and history paintings of the early modern period. There is, however, no similarly extensive discussion about the depiction of the passions in Dutch and Flemish art. Yet the most prominent Dutch artist, Rembrandt, has always been famous for depicting the "inner life" of the protagonists in his history paintings, portraits and figure studies. At the same time, a variety of other Netherlandish artists were developing practical and theoretical strategies for the representation of thought, emotion and character. The 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth in 2006 provides an occasion to examine the rendering of the passions in the work of Rembrandt and other Dutch and Flemish artists of the early modern period who shared an interest in depicting the "motions of the mind".

We invite proposals for papers that explore aspects of this theme in the work of any Netherlandish artists active ca. 1500-1750. Case studies might address issues such as shifting or competing strategies of representation in paintings and other works of art, or the relationship between theory and practice. We also encourage papers that chart exchanges between Dutch artists and the art of the Southern Netherlands and other countries and those that explore connections between the visual arts and other disciplines (literature, theater, science) or between artistic conventions and social ideals for personal conduct and self-expression. We welcome proposals from junior and senior scholars in art history and in related disciplines.

The symposium will take place in conjunction with the exhibition Wrought Emotions: Renaissance and Baroque Paintings from the Permanent Collection at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. There will be a study tour through

the galleries with the Bader Curator of European Art, Dr. David de Witt, on Saturday, November 18, and a visit to the vaults on Sunday, November 19, 2006.

Funds may be available to cover travel costs, fully or partially, for the speakers. A publication of selected papers is planned.

Send one-page proposal in English or French for a 30-minute talk and a two page c.v. via e-mail to Franziska Gottwald: [franziskagottwald@yahoo.de](mailto:franziskagottwald@yahoo.de) or Stephanie Dickey: [dickey.ss@gmail.com](mailto:dickey.ss@gmail.com) .

Deadline: March 13, 2006.

Conference organizers: David DeWitt, Bader Curator of European Art, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Franziska Gottwald, Free University, Berlin, Stephanie Dickey, designated Bader Chair in Northern Baroque Art, Queen's University

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