

## Tables of Content Symposium – Harvard Art Museums

Heather Hess

TABLES OF CONTENT Symposium  
Harvard University Art Museums  
Lecture Hall, Arthur M. Sackler Museum  
485 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138

Saturday, April 12, 2008  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Free admission; advanced registration not required.

For further information, see

<http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/events/lectures.html>

The baroque banquet table was the site of unparalleled riches and luxury. It was a visual as much as an edible feast, decked with elaborate porcelain and confectionary table settings that advanced dynastic ambitions and political ends. Prompted by the Busch-Reisinger Museum's exhibition "A Taste of Power: 18th-Century German Porcelain for the Table," this symposium brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars. Topics include issues such as luxury from the baroque to the present, porcelain and its uses on the table, and performance at court.

### PROGRAM

MORNING SESSION, 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Heather Hess, Busch-Reisinger Museum  
Opening Remarks

Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, Princeton University  
"Theaters of Magnificence"

Maureen Cassidy-Geiger, Arnhold Collection and Frick Collection  
"Sugar and Silver into Porcelain: The Conditorei and Court Dining in Dresden under Augustus III"

Valerie Steele, The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology  
"Fashioning Luxury"

DANCE AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Calderwood Courtyard, Fogg Art Museum, 2 - 2:45 p.m.

A selection of 18th-century dances and music like those seen at baroque banquets will be performed by dancers Camilla Finlay and Ken Pierce; Carol Lewis and Alice Mroszczyk, viol; and Olav Chris Henriksen, theorbo and baroque guitar.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Meredith Chilton, independent art historian

"Harlequins on the Table: Commedia dell'Arte and Porcelain Sculpture in the Eighteenth Century"

Ivan Day, independent scholar

"The Edible Edifice: Sculpture for the Eighteenth Century Dessert Table?"

RELATED EVENT:

Extravagance and Drama: Responses to 18th-Century European Porcelain  
Sunday, April 13

Harvard Ceramics Program, 219 Western Ave., Allston, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$75; free for students, staff, and faculty at Harvard and at the Ceramics Program

Master classes by artists Kristen Kieffer, Nicole Peters, and Gala Sorkina will feature slide presentations of their work followed by their simultaneous demonstrations of creating porcelain vessels and figurines. Connections between contemporary and historic porcelain on display in the Busch-Reisinger Museum will be highlighted, and a potluck lunch will follow. For more information, see the [www.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/ceramics).

Reference:

CONF: Tables of Content Symposium - Harvard Art Museums. In: ArtHist.net, Mar 30, 2008 (accessed May 12, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/30274>>.