

Cabinet Pictures in 17th Century Europe (CAA, 25-28 Feb 08)

Emmanuel Lemakis

Dear Colleagues:

I post his session statement on behalf of the chair. Proposals for papers to the session chair are due May 9, 2008. The CAA Conference will be held in Los Angeles, California, February 25-28, 2009.

Cabinet Pictures in Seventeenth-Century Europe

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Cabinet pictures were exclusive objects of aesthetic discussion as early as the Renaissance. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, there was a surge of interest in these small paintings commissioned by private collectors. Through painting on copper, in particular, new motifs and aesthetic paradigms were introduced. This session investigates the history of cabinet pictures in artistic centers in Europe, above all with the intention of elaborating aesthetic criteria according to which cabinet pictures were judged in the comparison among the arts (paragone). Several questions may give us valuable insight. First, regarding patrons and collectors: Who commissioned the works, how were the pictures presented, and how were discussions conducted among the circle of "connoisseurs"? Second, might investigations concerning the intended purpose and the value attached to cabinet pictures in the oeuvre of individual artists indicate the new significance of this genre?

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Reference:

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