

Ships and naval imagery in Renaissance Art (Venezia, 8-10 Apr 10)

Dr.

Call for papers

Renaissance Society of America,

Annual Meeting 2010, April 8-10,

Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Isola San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

Session: From the Anchor to the Crow's Nest: Ships and naval imagery in Renaissance Art

Ships in all epochs since Antiquity have played important roles in European art. This is true not only for the big harbor cities like Hamburg and Bremen, Le Havre and Marseille, Lisbon and Seville, Brindisi and Rome, Genoa and Venice. The transition from Antiquity to the Middle Ages marked an important evolution from the secular to the sacred, in which the powerful antique image of the ship of state was adopted for religious purposes. Without any doubt, the "Ship of State" is the most important ship metaphor. But this focused approach to ships in art tends to gloss over the complexity of the topic in its diversity of artistic meanings and functions.

One or two panels will explore what impact ships had on art produced in Early Modern Europe. Questions to be considered include: How did nautical imagery mirror war or peaceful times? How and where did ships serve for the propagandistic use of rulers and powerful persons? Was there a "renaissance" of antique ship types or do medieval images and contemporary ship designs dominate Renaissance art production? In what ways is the ship a symbol of the "Age of Discovery", economic power, struggle and war? Possible topics from architecture and sculpture as well as painting and the graphic arts include: the "Ship of State" and shipwrecks, fountains with naval imagery and "ship monuments" in their relationship to history and politics, economics, literature and philosophy.

Please submit your abstract (no more than 150 words) and a short CV no later than April 30, 2009 to:

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Dr. George Gorse, Art & Art History Department, Pomona College,
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Reference:

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