

## Textiles as Propaganda in the Middle Ages (CAA 2010 Chicago)

Kate Dimitrova

Call for Papers:

College Art Association Conference: 2010 Chicago

February 10- 13, 2010

Session: "Dressing the Part: Textiles as Propaganda in the Middle Ages"

During the Middle Ages, textiles played a particularly prominent role in the communication of wealth and authority by mediating the body politic and defining spaces of political, religious, and social power. The intrinsic material value of textiles—woven out of silk, silver and/or gold threads, and often garnished with precious stones—complemented a complex visual language that conveyed ideological messages. From the ornamented sphere of ecclesiastical dress and the celebrations of feast days to an aristocrat's various rites of passage (such as birth, marriage, coronation), textiles functioned as propaganda. Rulers across Europe and the Islamic world expressed their dynastic claims, military prowess, political aspirations and accomplishments by commissioning, displaying, wearing, and offering textiles.

This session welcomes papers that address how various forms of textiles were used in the construction and display of power. Material culture studies that explore textile display are welcome, as are art historical studies concerning the representation of textiles in other media, as well as investigations of textile design, that offer insight into how textiles were interwoven with notions of identity, status, and power.

Session organizers:

Dr. Kate Dimitrova, University of California, San Diego, and

Dr. Margaret Goehring, University of Rochester.

Send abstracts by Friday, May 8, 2009 to both organizers at:

[kdimitrova@ucsd.edu](mailto:kdimitrova@ucsd.edu) and [mgoeh@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mgoeh@rochester.rr.com)

Please follow the CAA guidelines for submission of proposals:

<http://www.collegeart.org/pdf/2010CallforParticipation.pdf>

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Reference:

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