

## Images of Corporal Mortification and Corruption 1250-1550 (AAH, Glasgow, 15-17 Apr 10)

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Association of Art Historians Annual Conference, 15-17 April 2010,  
University of Glasgow.

Session:

Images of Corporal Mortification and Corruption, Martyrdom and Mercy:  
1250-1550.

"The psychological implications of the new religiosity with which the devotional image was in accord are just as complex as the social conditions from which the religious individual developed his self-awareness. What took place in the thirteenth century was one of the most comprehensive transformations European society ever underwent. While the symptoms were often only visible in images at a later date, the impulses to modify images reach back to the thirteenth century."  
Hans Belting (trans. M. Bartusis and R. Meyer), *The Image and Its Public in the Middle Ages: Form and Function of Early Paintings of the Passion* (New Rochelle, New York: 1990), p. 7.

This session will explore images which illustrate the mortification of the flesh, bodily corruption, disfigurement, disease, decay, physical degradation and death. Such images have been used to convey messages of strength, the triumph of faith over fear and pain, the incorruptibility of the spirit, salvation, celebration and optimism. Images of suffering are often coupled with those of compassion and protection. Issues surrounding the role of gender within images of martyrdom and mercy will be investigated. Papers are invited which engage with related imagery (e.g. depictions of justice, punishment, vengeance, restraint and clemency) from both religious and secular contexts and which explore the relationship between text and image. We encourage submissions illustrating examples from a wide range of media (panel and wall painting, manuscript illumination, sculpture, architectural structures and contexts, decorated household, religious and civic objects and textiles) and originating from a variety of geographical locations.

Session convenors: Emily Jane Anderson (University of Glasgow) and Robert Gibbs (University of Glasgow).

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Abstracts of 250 words (max.) are invited by 10 November 2009 for the above session. The abstract should also include your name, the title of your paper, your academic affiliation and full contact details. Papers will be a maximum of 30 minutes in length.

Reference:

CFP: Images of Corporal Mortification and Corruption 1250-1550 (AAH, Glasgow, 15-17 Apr 10). In: ArtHist.net, May 21, 2009 (accessed Apr 4, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/31576>>.