

Art in the Public Sphere: Middle Ages & Renaissance (AAH Glasgow, 15–17 Apr 10)

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On the occasion of the AAH (Association of Art Historians) Annual Conference, 15-17 April 2010, University of Glasgow, a session on the following topic will be held:

ART IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE, PUBLIC SPHERES IN ART. MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE

Art has helped to define spaces for communication in the public sphere since the middle ages, and its own basic concepts have been shaped by these processes. Correspondingly, genres and themes, methods and tasks have had constantly to be adapted to changing habits of communication in the political communities of European cities. Our aim is to address art in the public sphere from ca. 1200 to ca. 1600 with a focus on visual discourse and aesthetic experience. We are interested in papers that address the impact of political discourse on the community's self-fashioning; stylistic norms and social distinction through art; the creation and negotiation of spaces for art and for visual communication; as well as visual communication shaped and restricted by public regulation. We are also interested in the spacial and intellectual frameworks in which works of art were beheld, discussed, and made accessible to different audiences. Last but not least, we are interested in how these issues are visually reflected or subverted in the works themselves. We especially invite contributions that go beyond the established text-based readings of political iconography.

If you would like to submit a paper, please send a 250 word abstract to the two session convenors (e-mail addresses as below) before 9 November 2009. Your name and your institutional affiliation with full contact details should also be included in the abstract. Contributions will be limited to ca 25 minutes in length.

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Reference:

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