Capturing Light (Haifa, 23-24 Jan 13)

Art History Department, Haifa University, Jan 23–24, 2013
Deadline: Aug 31, 2012

Mati Meyer

CFP: Capturing Light in Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Art

6th Annual Imago Conference to be held at the Art History Department, University of Haifa, 23-24 January 2013

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" – Matthew 4:16

Light, shadows, and darkness in art regulate space, determinate visibility, frame reality and divinity, and construct communal as well as liturgical identities. Shining metals, pieces of glasses, gold, precious stones, and others were inlayed in medieval painting, reliquaries, mosaics, walls decoration and stained glass windows, intermediating between the faithful and the heavenly realms. As the materia of divine creation and a metaphor of insight and illumination, light, images of light, and lightening devices are central to medieval art constituting the core its aesthetics. This conference seeks to explore the liturgical and aesthetic use of light, as well as its materiality in medieval art and culture. We invite young and established scholars to submit proposals that explore the role of light and luminosity in medieval and early modern culture, art and, materiality. Papers may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Visibility and invisibility in medieval art
- Aesthetic of light: painting and mosaics
- Physics of light: visualizing, and writing movement, time, and color of light
- Light in the liturgical service
- Materiality of light –techniques and manufacturing of lighting devices; candles, candlesticks, lamps, polykandela, lanterns, chandeliers, etc.; structural elements of lighting devices; decorative and narrative presentations
- The shimmering objects: use of crystals, gems and metal in

reliquaries, book's covers and liturgical objects.
- Light and stained glass windows

- Light as matter, light as materia: symbolical meaning of light; the metaphysics of light
- Light in space: use, functionality, and performance of light in the public and private realms
- Light and space: light and shadow as spatial constructs; in and between forms of physical and virtual openings of light;
- Iconic representations of light: Christological, typological, polemical, and eschatological visions of light; bodily light
- Subversive depictions of light: darkness, magic and popular beliefs, bodily darkness, Hell
- The politics of light: inclusion and exclusion of lighting elements; what is depicted and what remains to be imagined; eulogy/panegyrics and light.

Note that we will have an open session as well; you are invited to submit proposals dealing with subjects other than the conference's theme.

All sessions will be held in English. Please submit an abstract of up to 250 words to the conference organizers by August 31st 2012. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by October 2012.

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Reference:

CFP: Capturing Light (Haifa, 23-24 Jan 13). In: ArtHist.net, May 23, 2012 (accessed Nov 19, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/3330>.