

1 Session at IMC (Leeds, 3–6 Jul 23)

Leeds, University of Leeds, International Medieval Congress, Jul 3–06, 2023

Deadline: Sep 12, 2022

www.imc.leeds.ac.uk

ArtHist.net Redaktion

[1]

From: Mazi Kuzi

Date: Aug 1, 2022

Subject: The Scaling Revolution in Western Visual Culture, 1300–1500

Late medieval art was obsessed with scaling: scaling sculptures up to colossi and down to miniature figurines; scaling-up depictions of the Cosmos to appear much larger than God and vice versa; miniaturizing architectural elements into micro-architectural structures and then magnifying them into monumental artifacts; shrinking sacred history to fit into prayer nuts; playing with multiple scales within shrine Madonnas; and oscillating between thumb-sized prayer books and gigantic display volumes. The preoccupation with scaling was contemporaneous with the invention of new measuring instruments and standards that could investigate celestial bodies, fix time, distance, space, or quantities, and classify human physiognomy.

This session seeks to explore the Late Middle Ages as the stage of an overlooked turn, even revolution, in scaling that set new norms for reconceptualising all aspects of life, science, and ethics. While measuring, using set units in order to produce “objective” ontological categories has been relatively well explored in recent scholarship, scaling, as a subjective, relative act and relational phenomenological category, has been understudied.

Suggested topics on the geographical area and time period should consider the artistic, technological, cultural, and ethical ramifications of this transformation. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Monumental artistic media evolved to take on characteristics of miniature art and vice versa
- Artifacts that have demonstrably undergone fluctuations in their scale
- Colossi artifacts, statues, and prayer books

- Spectacular sculpture adopts the esthetics of miniature portable objects
- Micro-architectural elements magnified/minaturized
- Prayer nuts
- Giant versus miniature bibles and prayer books
- Giants in Art, literature, and theology
- Miniaturization of artifacts
- Artifacts composed of multiple scales simultaneously

Please submit your proposal by 12 September 2022 to mazikuzi@mail.tau.ac.il. Submissions should include a 250-word proposal for a 15-20-minute paper. Proposals should have a title, an abstract format, and should be accompanied by a short CV including current affiliation and full contact information.

The “Scaling Revolution” is a project led by Prof. Assaf Pinkus and Dr. Einat Klafter from Tel Aviv University.

Reference:

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