

Visual Humanisms (Florence, 20–21 Oct 22)

Dutch University Institute for Art History in Florence (NIKI), Viale Torricelli 5, 50125
Florence, Oct 20–21, 2022

Marieke van den Doel, University of Humanistics, utrecht

Renaissance Humanism was an important driving force behind the ideal of bringing antiquity back to life, or restoring the ancient gods to their former glory. Was this resurrection of non-Christian gods merely an intellectual game or should we call it religious practice?

This symposium examines the role of artists in bringing about the ideals of Renaissance humanism. Many Renaissance artists were active in identifying and physically examining antiquities. Treatises of art theory - often written by artists themselves - contributed to both detailed and overview knowledge about antiquity. In this process Renaissance artists may have gained more than textual and visual information alone, that could be described as 'tacit' or 'embodied' knowledge. One could argue, that artistic research played a pivotal role in the process of reintegration of classical textual sources and visual and material culture, which was typical for the Renaissance movement.

Program

Thursday, October 20

10.00 Coffee/Tea

10.15 Michael W. Kwakkelstein, Director's Welcome

Marieke van den Doel (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht), Introduction

Session 1 Visual Humanism and Paganism

(chair: Gert-Jan van der Sman, NIKI)

10.30 Susanna de Beer (University of Leiden, Royal Netherlands Institute Rome)

Who is Best at Restoring Ancient Rome? Collaboration and Rivalry between Humanist Writers and Visual Artists

10.55 Han Lamers (University of Oslo)

The Dotti Greci of Italian Humanism: An Alternative Introduction

11.20 Discussion

11.30 Marieke van den Doel (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)

Visual Humanism and Paganism: The Case of the Tempio Malatestiano

11.55 Matthijs Jonker (University of Utrecht, Royal Netherlands Institute Rome)

Transcultural Visual Humanism: Understanding New World Antiquities through Images

12.20 Discussion

12.30 Lunch

Session 2 The experiment of the Renaissance artist

(chair: Joachim Duyndam, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)

13.30 Joost Keizer (University of Groningen)

What Is a Renaissance Allegory?

13.55 Elsje van Kessel (University of St. Andrews)

Visual Humanisms out to Sea

14.20 Sergius Koderer (University of Vienna)

Giovan Battista della Porta's Physiognomics and the Pagan Gods

14.45 Discussion

15.00 Afternoon Tea

Session 3 The Ancient Gods

(chair: Anja Machielse, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)

15.30 Kocku von Stuckrad (University of Groningen), keynote lecture

Agential Entanglements in Renaissance Art: Locating Ancient Gods in Religious Discourse

16.20 Discussion

16.30 Reception

Friday October, 21

10.00 Coffee/Tea

Session 5 Botticelli Revisited

(chair: Valery Rees, London School of Philosophy and Economic Science)

10.15 Alessandro Cecchi (Casa Buonarroti)

Lecture Botticelliana. La Primavera e una proposta per la Villa dell'Ospedaletto

10.40 Ingrid Rowland (University of Notre Dame School of Architecture)

Botticelli, Vasari, and the Medici Revival of Etruscan Art

11.05 Gert Jan van der Sman (NIKI)

The Visual Language of Botticelli's Primavera

11.30 Discussion

11.40 Coffee/Tea

Session 6 Harmony of Concurrent Alternatives

(chair: Anja Machielse, University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht)

12.00 Jacomien Prins (Utrecht University)

Seeing, Hearing, Beauty and Love in Ficino's Commentary on Plato's Symposium

12.25 Valery Rees (London School of Economic Science)

Reframing the 'Twilight of the Gods'

12.50 Discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Book presentation Marieke van den Doel, Ficino and Fantasy. Imagination in Art and Theory from Botticelli to Michelangelo with Valery Rees and Anja Machielse

15.00 Concluding remarks

There is no participation fee, but it is required to register in advance with regard to seating. Please register per mail at Marieke van den Doel, University of Humanistics, Utrecht: m.vandendoel@uvh.nl

Reference:

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