

Beyond the Western Mediterranean (London, 20 April 2013)

London, Apr 20, 2013

Sarah Guérin, Courtauld Institute of Art

Beyond the Western Mediterranean:

Materials, Techniques and Artistic Production, 650-1500

Symposium

10.00 - 18.00, Saturday 20 April 2013 (with registration from 09.30)

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2

http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/researchforum/events/2013/apr20_BeyondtheWesternMediterranean.shtml

The notion of a shared Mediterranean culture has become a central tenet in the study of medieval art history. Growing out of the Roman *mare nostrum*, the Mediterranean as a conduit of communication, dissemination, and transmission throughout the Middle Ages is shaping the scope of our discipline. Yet the investigation into the Mediterranean remains unbalanced, and while the northern and eastern edges of the basin are well investigated, historiographical and political considerations have limited the study of the sea's southern shores, not to mention the exchanges across that other sea - the sea of sand - that lies beyond those territories' southern borders.

This one-day workshop at The Courtauld Institute of Art takes as its topic the broader sphere of influence of the Western Mediterranean. Focusing primarily on interconnections in the Western Mediterranean basin, from the Maghreb to Italy, from Ifriqiya to Iberia, we will also investigate how this north-south axis extended well beyond the littoral regions to encompass sub-Saharan kingdoms. The day's proceedings are primarily intended to implicate art historians in this discussion about a global middle ages, and we will draw from interdisciplinary discoveries in recent years, especially the wealth of archaeological work accomplished by London-based colleagues. The material culture of these regions, including such luxurious materials as ivory, gold, ceramics, pigments and textiles, augments the limited offerings of

historical texts in delineating the complex interactions across geographical boundaries. In this way we hope to probe the foundations of a world artistic culture not only through shared materials and techniques, but also through the yearnings and desires such interactions engendered.

Ticket/entry details: £16 (£11 students, Courtauld staff/students and concessions: over 60)

BOOK ONLINE:

<http://courtauld-institute.digitalmuseum.co.uk><<http://courtauld-institute.digitalmuseum.co.uk>> Or send a cheque made payable to 'Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Co-ordinator, Research Forum, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, stating 'Mediterranean'. For further information, email ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk<<mailto:ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk>>

Organised by: Sarah Guérin (The Courtauld Institute of Art) and Mariam Rosser Owen (Victoria and Albert Museum)

PROGRAMME

09.30 - 10.00

Registration (Front Hall)

10.00 - 10.15

Welcome and Introduction: Mariam Rosser-Owen and Sarah M. Guérin

10.15 - 11.00

Keynote Lecture: Michael Brett (SOAS, University of London)

11.00 - 11.30

COFFEE/TEA BREAK (Tea/coffee provided in Seminar room 1)

11.00 - 13.00

SESSION 1: Archaeology of Sand and Sea: Uncovering Interregional Connections

Chair: Elizabeth Fentress (International Association for Classical Archaeology)

Sam Nixon (University College London)

Across the sand sea: archaeological investigations of medieval trade and exchange between North and West Africa

Kathleen Bickford Berzock (Art Institute Chicago)

The Horse and Rider in the Medieval Sudan: an Image with Local Roots and Cross-Regional Influences

Ronald A. Messier (Vanderbilt University, Tennessee) and Chloé Capel (Université de la Sorbonne, Paris)

Urban Morphology North and South of the Sahara: Separate Development or Mutual Influences? A Comparative Study of Sijilmasa (Morocco), Tegdaoust and Kumbi Saleh (Mauritania)

Matthew Harpster (Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University)

Eliminating the Periphery: Conduits of a Networked Mediterranean Sea

13.00 - 14.00

LUNCH (not provided except for the speakers and chairs)

14.00 - 15.10

SESSION 2: Mediating Materials

Chair: Antony Eastmond (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Silvia Armando (Università di Urbino 'Carlo Bo')

Separated at Birth or Distant Relations? The Al-Mu'izz and Mantua Caskets Between Decoration and Construction

Anna McSweeney (SOAS, University of London)

Tin Glazing in Sicilian Ceramics: the Transfer of a Technique in the Early Medieval Mediterranean

Elise Morero and Jeremy Johns (Khalili Research Centre, University of Oxford)

The Diffusion of Rock Crystal Carving Techniques in the Fatimid Mediterranean

Emma Rogers (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

North African Silks in Italy: Imported luxury and Ecclesiastical Decoration

Tom Nickson (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Brothers Joyfully Facing Each Other': Technology and Epigraphy Between Morocco and al-Andalus

15.10 - 15.40

COFFEE/TEA BREAK (Tea/coffee provided in Seminar room 1)

15.40 - 17.10

SESSION 3: Spanning the Straits: North Africa and Europe

Chair: Tom Nickson (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Rose Walker (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

Spanning the Pillars of Hercules: Trade and Migration Between North Africa and Iberia c.600-c.800

Jonathan Bloom (Boston College)

Towers in the Central Mediterranean

Jessica Streit (Cornell University)

Almohad Mosques and Twelfth-Century Religious Architecture in the Mediterranean

Marta Caroscio (Harvard University, Villa I Tatti): Portuguese Outposts in Northern Africa: Material Culture and Identity

17.10 - 18.10

Round Table Discussion led by Peregrine Horden (Royal Holloway) and concluding remarks

18.10

RECEPTION (Front Hall)

Reference:

CONF: Beyond the Western Mediterranean (London, 20 Apr 13). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 9, 2013 (accessed Apr 5, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/4832>>.