

Queens, Noblewomen, and Burgher Women in the Middle Ages (Prague, 16–17 Oct 25)

Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Oct 16–17, 2025

Barbara Liznerova

Communication – Cooperation – Confrontation: Queens, Noblewomen, and Burgher Women in the Middle Ages.

Organised jointly by the Institute of Art History and the Institute for Czech Literature, both of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the conference will take place at the Academic Conference Centre in Prague (Husova 4a, Prague) on 16–17 October.

Medieval women were not isolated figures in society. As part of a complex system of personal, ideological and material relations, they lived and worked within various networks. The terms 'communication, cooperation and confrontation' can serve as analytical categories for understanding how women exerted influence and power, gained support to achieve their goals and navigated social, economic and other obstacles. This conference seeks to apply these analytical categories to the investigation of the manifold relations between medieval women and material culture in the broadest sense. The conference organisers invite all members of the academic community to attend.

PROGRAM

Thursday – 16 October

09.00 MORNING COFFEE, REGISTRATION

09.30 Welcome speech

09.50 Conference opening

I. Women at power: beyond the limits?

10.00 KLÁRA MEZIHORÁKOVÁ

Institute of Art History, CAS, Prague, Czech Republic

The concept of the Přemyslid Acropolis: princess Mlada, St. George's monastery and its architecture

10.30 GIULIA MARIA PALMA

University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy

RENZO CHIOVELLI

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

VANIA ROCCHI

International Center for Studies on the Holy Sepulchre – C.I.S.Sa.S., Italy Saint Matilda Queen of Germany – founder of churches

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 HELENA DÁŇOVÁ

Institute of Art History, CAS, Prague, the Czech Republic

Visual demonstration of Bohemian Queens' power and authority through seals, 13th–14th centuries

12.00 SOPHIE MARIE DASCHNER

Heidelberg University, Germany

A regnant in her own right? On the contrasting ideas encapsulated in the silver coinage of Catherine Cornaro, Queen of Cyprus

12.30 LUNCH BREAK

II. Women and devotion:

between communities and individual

14.30 AISLING REID

Queen's University Belfast, UK

Sculpting the scream: female mourning, devotional confrontation, and the limits of communication in Niccolò dell'Arca's Lamentation

15.00 DANIELA RYWIKOVÁ

University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Faceless women? Visual strategies and the "public image" in the female religious communities

15.30 COFFEE BREAK

16.00 HOLLY FLORA

Tulane University, New Orleans, USA

Female agency, self-fashioning, and devotion to the side wound of Christ in a manuscript of Bonaventure's *Legenda Maior*

16.30 VĚRA SOUKUPOVÁ

Institute of Czech Literature, CAS, Prague, Czech Republic

Prayer books, female readers and models of piety in late medieval Bohemia

17.00 DISCUSSION AND WINE

Friday – 17 October

09.00 MORNING COFFEE

III. Women, their entourages, social and family networks

9.30 MARTA REDONDO DE FUENMAYOR

National University of Distance Education – UNED, Madrid, Spain

Female patronage and artistic mobility in 14th century Castile: a pictorial commission through the religious networks of Santa Clara de Tordesillas

10.00 PARASKEVI TASSOU

University of Fribourg, Switzerland

The Queens' legacy: female networks and artistic patronage in Southern Italy in the 13th–15th centuries

10.30 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 MICHAELA ANTONÍN MALANÍKOVÁ

Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

Late medieval Moravian townswomen as donors and patrons within a network of social relations and roles

11.30 CIPRIAN FIREA

Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

What was it like to be a painter's wife in the 16th century Transylvania? A few remarks on the marge of a remarkable source

12.00 LUNCH BREAK

IV. Models of patronage and cultural transfers

14.00 RAFCA YOUSSEF NASR

University of Fribourg, Switzerland

From Mount Lebanon to Cyprus: textile transfers and artistic exchange in Anna Lachana's attire

14.30 RICHARD A. LESON

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA

At the limits of Majesty: rethinking the visual and material dossier of Jeanne de Flandre

15.00 LAURA AGATHA EGER

Heidelberg University, Germany

"Fortune – Infortune – Fortune": female agency and dynastic representation in the artistic patronage of Margaret of Austria (1480–1530)

15.30 CONFERENCE CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

16.00 EXCURSION

The conference is open to the public. For the Zoom link, please, register for free at the e-mail addresses below by 12 October 2025.

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