

## Art & Religion in the 18th century (CAA, Chicago, 12–15 Feb 14)

CAA Annual Conference, Chicago, Feb 12–15, 2014

Deadline: May 6, 2013

Kevin Chua

College Art Association Annual Conference

Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture

Session:

After the Secular: Art and Religion in the 18th century

Chaired by Dr Kevin Chua, Texas Tech University

Religious art of the 18th century has long been framed within a narrative of secularization. It was thought that, with modernization, societies would move away from religious values to embrace secular ones. Yet scholars such as Charles Taylor, Talal Asad, and Hent de Vries have questioned this dominant narrative. Not only has secularization been shown to be not the end point of modernization, it has proven to be, perhaps, the last progress narrative that we need to unbind. This panel seeks papers on religious art, visual culture, and architecture that trouble the old secularization narrative, and come to grips with the paradoxical efflorescence of religion in the 18th century. Approaches that move beyond a simple inversion of the secular/religious binary are encouraged. Papers might address the contradictory place of art between the flourishing of marginal religions and the public sphere, engage the various “returns” of religion in and for art, and rethink the supposedly unidirectional shift from “religious” to “secular” worlds in aesthetic media. Did secularism paradoxically occasion particular kinds of objects (eg. relics)? How did religious affect, and the religious beholder, change in the 18th century? Other possible topics include the geographical and cultural diversity of the secular (eg. non-Western religions); iconoclasm and/as secularism; and secularism in and through non-religious art.

Please send a proposal of not more than 2 pages, double-spaced, to [kevin.chua@ttu.edu](mailto:kevin.chua@ttu.edu) by May 6, 2013.

Reference:

CFP: Art & Religion in the 18th century (CAA, Chicago, 12-15 Feb 14). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 19, 2013 (accessed Apr 25, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5131>>.