

Devotion, Poetry, and the Visual Arts (RSA, New York, 27–29 Mar 14)

New York, NY, Mar 27–29, 2014

Deadline: May 20, 2013

Emily Fenichel

Call for Papers

Devotion, Poetry, and the Visual Arts in Early Modern Italy

Session at the 2014 Renaissance Society of America conference

The relationship of poetry and the visual arts in the early modern period has often been understood in terms of the humanist debate over the paragone and theories of *ut pictura poesis* and ekphrasis. Poetry and art, however, could function together or independently as theology and as instruments of devotion. Thus far, the interaction of the arts and poetry with contemporary religion has not been systematically studied. This panel invites papers that explore the complex relationship of poetry and the visual arts to the contemporary religious and devotional practices of the early modern period. Paper topics might include, but are not limited to:

- the art of poets/the poetry of artists
- poetry or art that describe or depict devotion
- early modern images and laude
- the conjunction of word and image in devotion or devotional aids
- treatises or sermons on art, poetry and piety (prescriptive or descriptive)
- changing forms or uses of art/poetry in devotion in the period
- art and poetry devised for thaumaturgic, prophylactic or mystical purposes
- the role of art and poetry in the creation of sacred space
- arts and poetry in the Pope's court/monastic orders

Papers may discuss corporate or personal piety, and works destined for private or public readership/viewing.

Please send a 150-word abstract and a one-page CV to Emily Fenichel at eal4c@virginia.edu or to Sarah Rolfe Prodan at sarah.rolfe@utoronto.ca by 20 May 2013.

"Theories which bring into connection with each other modes of thought and feeling, periods of taste, forms of art and poetry, which the narrowness of men's minds constantly tends to oppose to each other, have a great stimulus for the intellect, and are almost always worth understanding." - Walter Pater

Reference:

CFP: Devotion, Poetry, and the Visual Arts (RSA, New York, 27-29 Mar 14). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 23, 2013 (accessed Dec 18, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5169>>.