

## Sacred Space in the Italian Church Interior (New York, 24-27 March 14)

United States, May 4–Jun 3, 2013

Deadline: Jun 3, 2013

Joanne Allen, Lichfield

CFP: Sacred Space in the Italian Church Interior

RSA, New York, 24-27 March 14

Understanding spatial experiences in Italian churches during the Renaissance still presents challenges for the historian. Recent research has revealed the complexity of reconstructing original arrangements in church buildings, compounded by later restorations that created a separation between historical sources and surviving architectural fabric. This panel aims to explore the concept of sacred space in relation to issues of access, ownership, audience and function. Divisions of space could shape participation in the liturgy, affect the viewing of artwork and impact social encounters. Sacred space could also demonstrate a fluid and adaptable quality, being used differently according to context, audience or time. Since the panel seeks to open dialogue on the topic from a variety of angles, contributions from any discipline are welcome.

Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Non-religious use of liturgical space
- Processions, rituals and musical performances
- The location and function of rood screens, altar screens and choir stalls
- Access to sacristies, cloisters and chapter houses
- Gender or class restrictions in church interiors
- Viewing dynamics of altarpieces and other works of art
- Descriptions or images of church interiors

Please send abstracts of no more than 150 words to Joanne Allen (jmallen@american.edu) by June 3rd 2013. Please include a brief CV (max. 300 words). Feel free to email with any questions.

Joanne Allen, American University, Washington D.C.

Reference:

CFP: Sacred Space in the Italian Church Interior (New York, 24-27 March 14). In: ArtHist.net, May 6, 2013 (accessed Dec 19, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5271>>.