

Other Animals and Humans in Medieval Art (Kalamazoo, 8–11 May 14)

International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 8–11, 2014

Deadline: Sep 15, 2013

Martha Easton

Other Animals and Humans in Medieval Art

Session to be held at the 2014 International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo Michigan

Sponsored by the International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA)

Organizers:

Corine Schleif (Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ)

Martha Easton (Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ)

For some “animals are good to eat.” For others “animals are good to think with” (Levi-Strauss). Medieval art and society could not have existed without nonhuman animals. Human knowledge of animals is and was produced and exchanged largely through images (Berger) – albeit differently during the Middle Ages than today. Papers may address the ways in which humans defined themselves against animal others in and through visual images or the ways in which interspecies relationships were prescribed and proscribed pictorially. We welcome not only papers in which animals are absented and employed as signs for persons and things outside of themselves, but also and especially studies that interrogate “real” animals (Fudge, Hobgood-Oster) as sentient beings with agency as well as filaments within tangled interdependent networks (Haraway, Latour). Participants may explore relationships that manifest themselves in art in terms of companionship, communication, entertainment, food, clothing, energy, gift giving, or liturgical rituals. Panelists may wish to examine intersections with issues of gender, class, race and breed. Papers may question critically the manner in which art functioned ideologically on behalf of human hegemony, as well as ways in which animals were perceived to “look back,” to be privy to divine omniscience, to utter otherwise hidden truths, and to rise to the level of the holy.

DEADLINE FOR PAPER PROPOSALS: September 15, 2013

Paper proposals should consist of the following:

1. Abstract of proposed paper (300 words maximum)
2. Completed Participant Information Form. available at: <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/submissions/index.html#PIF>
3. CV with home and office mailing addresses, e-mail address, and phone number
4. Statement of ICMA membership status (note: all participants in ICMA sponsored sessions are required to be members of the ICMA)

Funds may be available to defray travel costs of sponsored session participants

ALL PROPOSALS AND INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Corine Schleif: cschleif@asu.edu

Martha Easton: martha.easton@shu.edu

For information about the ICMA: <http://www.medievalart.org>

For information about the International Medieval Congress:
<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/index.html>

Reference:

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(accessed Apr 5, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5631>>.