

Women Religious & the Arts (London, 5-7 Sep 13)

IHR, London, Sep 5-07, 2013

Ayla Lepine, National Gallery

Histories of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland

2013 Conference, IHR, Senate House, London

'Materialising the Spirit'

5-7 September

This conference explores architecture, art, and design produced by and for women religious in Britain and Ireland from the Middle Ages to the present. Keynote speakers are Mary Schoeser on textiles and interiors, and Julian Luxford on medieval convents. Presenters include Emily Gee (English Heritage), Tim Knox (Fitzwilliam Museum), and Helen Hills (York). The conference also includes a thematic tour of the V&A's collections. Register using the link below, and please spread the word about this event widely amongst your networks.

For a full programme and HWRBI information:

<http://www.history.ac.uk/history-women-religious/article/h-wrbi-2013-conference-materializing-spirit>

Thursday Sept 5th

Victoria & Albert Museum

2.00 - 3.30 Women Religious and the Arts

Tessa Murdoch (Acting Keeper of Metalwork, Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass, V&A) will lead a tour of the museum's collections. Places are limited. Further information on registration.

Friday Sept 6th

Woburn Suite, Senate House, London

9.00 - 9.30 Registration and Refreshments

9.30 - 9.45 Welcome and Introduction

9.45 - 11.15 Session I

Place and Purpose

Chaired by Caroline Bowden (QMUL)

Roderick O'Donnell FSA 'The Pugins' Houses of men and women contrasted'

Michael O'Boyle (Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects) 'The nature and character of convent buildings in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries'

Sue Acheson RSCJ 'Space for the Heart: Representing Devotion in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton'

11.15 - 11.30 Refreshment Break

11.30 - 1.00 Session II

Patrons and Subjects

Chaired by Dominic Janes (Birkbeck)

Tim Knox (Fitzwilliam Museum) 'A Soldier and a Nun: two 'Ancestral Portraits' of English Sitters by Pietro-Tommaso Labruzzi'

Patricia Harris CJ 'The Mystery of the 'Painted Life' of Mary Ward'

Anselm Nye (QMUL) 'Artistic & comic: the cartoon as historical memory amongst the English Dominican Sisters'

1.00 - 2.00 Lunch

2.00 - 3.00 Session III

Material & Immaterial

Chaired by Carmen Mangion (Birkbeck)

Susan O'Brien (Cambridge) 'A Spirituality Represented: Images of the Holy Child in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, England since 1846.'

Helen Hills (York) 'Making Religion Matter?'

3.00 - 3.15 Refreshment Break

3.15 - 5.00 Teaching and Publishing Session

"...[N]uns are a remote reality, detached from the world". The Challenges of Teaching and Researching Female Religious Life (Session sponsored by History Lab Plus, IHR & Higher Education Academy)

5.00 - 5.15 Refreshment Break

5.15 - 6.15 Keynote I

Mary Schoeser (President, The Textile Society)

'Fair and beautiful to behold'

6.15 - 8.00 Reception
H-WRBI Annual Meeting

8.00 Conference Dinner

Saturday Sept 7th

9.00 - 9.30 Registration and Refreshments

9.30 - 11.00 Session IV
Space and Context
Chaired by Lynne Walker (IHR)

Ellie Pridgeon (Leicester) 'Space and Location: The
Cloister Paintings at Lacock Abbey'

Deirdre Raftery (UCD) "Cover the earth with houses":
the form and function of the convents of the Society of
the Sacred Heart in nineteenth century Ireland, North
and South'

Brenda King (The Textile Society), 'Stitch and Stone'

11.00 - 11.30 Refreshment Break

11.30 - 12.30 Session V
Symbolism and Devotion
Chaired by Jane Hamlett (RHUL)

Kate Jordan (UCL) 'Artists hidden from human view:
mysticism and art in the Victorian convent'

Ayla Lepine (Yale) "'The Story of a Life": Nuns at the
Epicentre of Modern Visual Culture'

12.30 - 1.30 Lunch

1.30 - 3.45 Session VI
Heritage and Preservation
Chaired by Emily Gee (English Heritage)

Abbot Geoffrey Scott (Catholic Archives Society) 'The
archives and collections of English nuns deposited at
Douai Abbey'

Frederick O'Dwyer (Conservation architect) 'Historic
Irish Convents, Redundancy and Reuse'

Sophie Andreae (Vice Chair, Bishop's Conference
Patrimony Committee) 'Important Artefacts: Some

Recent Case Studies'

Emily Gee (English Heritage, Head of Designation)
'Reflections on the Heritage Landscape'

3.30 - 4.00 Refreshment Break

4.00 - 5.00 Keynote II

Julian Luxford, (St Andrews)
'Nuns, art and patronage in later medieval England'

5.00 - 5.15 Closing remarks

5.15 - 6.15 Closing reception

To register online, visit the HWRBI Eventbrite page:
<http://materializingthespirit2013.eventbrite.co.uk>

Reference:

CONF: Women Religious & the Arts (London, 5-7 Sep 13). In: ArtHist.net, Jul 15, 2013 (accessed Jul 16, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5766>>.