CALL FOR PAPERS

Medieval Christian visual culture in their context. Theological elaboration, emotions, materiality, and techniques EuARe – European Academy of Religions

May 20-23 2024, University of Palermo, ITALY



The study of Medieval religious visual culture has experienced a recent new impulse and this panel is designed for the purpose of rethinking and discussing the Medieval visual production in view of new acquisitions concerning theological elaborations, emotions that are stimulated in the faithful, their relation with the human and natural contests (for example report with the liturgical space or artificial or natural light), materials used, and production techniques.

The new tendencies in the Medieval religious visual culture route the scholarly research in order to understand that the material artifacts of Christianity are polysemous and also enlighten the ever-unfolding story of devotion. The recent essays provide an essential overview of the development of the Christian practice of the cult in medieval Est and West between the Ninth and Thirteenth Centuries. The Christian visual material production improves the expendability of political ideologies and helps social relationships during the popular celebration dedicated to the saint. In particular, scholars have explored the cult of the Virgin's image or female saints and offered a significant contribution to studies of gender in the Late Medieval Age.

We compare innovative outlooks which, through Visual Studies, Anthropological Studies, Gender Studies, and Humanities in general, redirected the attention to the physical proprieties, material qualities of the Medieval Christian visual productions, and the emotion stimulated in a liturgical context. This perspective is really useful to address Medieval visual culture research and enhance not only the ideological motives but also the context and the objectual character of the visual products. Special attention is offered to the relation between hymns, liturgical images, and the value of the materials used in their manufacture, which favored icons' circulation and reception in front of an expanding number of users.

Therefore, we invite academics, young researchers, undergraduates, experts in theology, historians, medievalists, and art history specialists to send your paper proposals.

Proposals have to relate to the following topics:

Theology and Ideology of icons.

Icons in Liturgical Context.

Icons and Immaterial Culture of the Great Church.

Icons and emotion in liturgical praxis.

The Father of the Church and their Reflections on Post-iconoclast Era. The icon as an object: materialities and production techniques.

Techniques and praxis in the production of Medieval visual culture. Treatises, notebooks, and manuals of iconographers.

Circulation of visual products, exchanges, translation, and appropriation.

The cult of images: popular festival and anthropological implications. Materiality in visual production.

Continuities and breaks in Medieval praxis production during the following centuries.

Interested scholars can send a short proposal including a title, an academic biography, and a 300-word abstract to apiocosmo@outlook.it by 15 February 2024. The email address is also available for further information







