

Using Images in Late Antiquity

Identity, Commemoration, and Response

Organised by the research programme
Art and Social Identities in Late Antiquity, Aarhus University, Denmark



Accademia di Danimarca, Via Omero 18, Roma
13-15 January 2010

The conference will focus on the active role of art and architecture in Late Antiquity and situate the use of images in the period's dynamic political, religious and social life. The seminar aims to cross interdisciplinary boundaries and arrive at an original and comprehensive view of late antique society. Through images and the responses to them, we ask the invited contributors to focus on questions such as: Why were works of art made? Who commissioned them, and how were they looked at? The papers should try to illuminate the contexts in which works of art were created, and how they were valued and viewed. These questions could be applied to the various places of exchange (sacred and secular) where identities were taken on and transformed, often through the mediation of images.

The conference is open to the public, no registration necessary.

Programme

Wednesday 13 January

18.00

Keynote lecture

Franz Alto Bauer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany)
Communicating Sanctity in Late Antiquity: The Case of Hagios Demetrios in Thessaloniki
Rinfresco

Thursday 14 January

9.30 Welcome and introduction to the seminar
Director Erik Bach (Accademia di Danimarca) and organisers

Session 1 – Chair: Franz Alto Bauer

9.45 Sarah E. Bassett (Indiana University, USA)
Late Antique Honorific Sculpture in Constantinople

10.25 Ine Jacobs (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)
The Last Roman Heyday: Civic Representation around AD 400

11.05 Coffee

Session 2 – Chair: Arnaldo Marcone

11.30 Paolo Liverani (Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italy)
Chi parla a chi? Epigrafia monumentale e immagine pubblica in epoca tardoantica

12.10 Stine Birk (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Using Images for Self-Representation on Roman Sarcophagi

12.50 Lunch (speakers only)

Session 3 – Chair: Birte Poulsen

14.30 Eric Varner (Emory University, Atlanta, USA)
Maxentius and Constantine: Images and the Expropriation of Imperial Identity

15.10 John Weisweiler (St John's College, Cambridge, England, and Istituto Svizzero di Roma)
Aristocrats as Imperial Officials: Imperial Symbols of Authority in the Self-Representation of the Late Roman Aristocracy

15.50 Arnaldo Marcone (Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy)
Alla ricerca di un'identità. Tradizioni classiche nella prima iconografia cristiana

Friday 15 January

Session 4 – Chair: Sarah Bassett

- 9.00 Trinidad Nogales Basarrate (Museo Nacional de Arte Romano, Mérida, Spain)
*Scultura della Tarda Antichità ad Augusta Emerita e nel suo territorio (Hispania):
officine, modelli e circuiti*
- 9.40 Niels Hannestad (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Supply of Sculpture in ‘Stately Homes’ in Late Antiquity
- 10.20 Donato Attanasio and Matthias Bruno (Istituto di Struttura della Materia del CNR,
Rome, Italy)
*The newly discovered Göktepe quarries in ancient Caria near Aphrodisias: Use and
distribution from the 1st century to Late Antiquity*
- 11.00 Coffee

Session 5 – Chair: Carola Jäggi

- 11.30 Simon Malmberg (Istituto Svedese di Studi Classici, Rome, Italy)
*Above the Gate: Symbols on the gate, and the gate as symbol at Rome, Ravenna and
Constantinople*
- 12.10 Hendrik W. Dey (Hunter College of the City University of New York, and Center for
Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington DC, USA)
*At the Intersection of ‘Image’ and ‘Reality’: The Use of Colonnaded Streets in Late
Antiquity*
- 12.50 Lunch (speakers only)

Session 6 – Chair: Eric Varner

- 14.30 Katherine M.A. Dunbabin (McMaster University, Canada)
Myth, Theatre, and Performance: Cultural Identity in Mosaics of the Roman East
- 15.10 Birte Poulsen (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Images of City Personifications in Late Antiquity
- 15.50 Troels Myrup Kristensen (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Christian Responses to ‘Pagan’ Statuary in Late Antique Scythopolis (Beit She’an)

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