The Secret Lives of Artworks: International Conference

To mark the conclusion of the project, an international conference will be organized from 24 to 26 June 2010 at Leiden University.

About the conference

Marking the conclusion of the state-granted research project ‘Art, Agency and Living Presence in Early Modern Italy’, the goal of the conference is to place the conclusions of 5 years of research in a broader context. Throughout history, and all over the world, people respond to images as if they are alive: they say that they move, speak or look at the beholder. Paintings are addressed, touched, kissed and embraced, beaten or destroyed. Statues are treated as if they are the living being they represent; buildings are given food and drink, and are reported to move, speak, bleed or look at the beholder. Such responses are not limited to non-Western or so-called ‘primitive’ societies. What is more, such responses seem clearly based on an ontological confusion: images are not alive, and if they move, speak or weep it is because there is a hidden mechanism at work. Yet, they are so constant and widespread, that we cannot simply dismiss them as confusions, primitive reactions to art, critical hyperbole or cliché. Indeed, rather than simply dismissing them on such grounds, we propose to take these responses more seriously.

Programme

Thursday, June 24
9:00 Registration / Coffee
9:30 Conference opening
   Word of welcome by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
   Caroline van Eck  Art, Agency, and Living Presence
10:20 Session I – Theories and Methods
   Jason Gaiger  Mimesis, Make-Believe, and Pictorial Seeing
   Matthew Rampley  The Image, the Body and the History of Representation
   Maarten Delbeke  Alexandre Lenoir’s Musée des monuments français
12:20 Lunch break
14:00 Session II – Spectacle and Ceremony
   Minou Schraven  Linking Builders to Buildings: Mythical, Magical and Material Aspects of Foundation Ceremonies in Early Modern Italy
   Iain Fenlon  Monteverdi’s Voice
   Lex Hermans  Palaces, Theatres and Social Presence in Italy in the Long Sixteenth Century
16:00 Coffee break
16:20 Keynote
   Alina Payne  Burckhardt’s ‘lebendige Architektur’, Warburg’s Nympha and the Dangers of Enlivenment in Architecture

Friday, June 25
9:00 Registration / Coffee
9:30 Session III – Antiquity
   Robin Osborne  The Living Presence of the Gods in Ancient Greece
   Peter Stewart  The Agency of Roman Provincial Sculpture
10:50 Coffee break
11:10 Jan Bremmer  The Agency of Statues from Classical Antiquity to Christian Late Antiquity: Continuities and Transformations
   Stijn Bussels  Da’ più scorretti abusata: Praxiteles’ Aphrodite and Living Presence Responses
12:30 Lunch break
14:00 Session IV – The Baroque
   Arnold Witte  Passeri and the Viewer: Intended Religious Responses to Baroque Art
   Joris van Gastel  Sculpture and the ‘Enactive Approach’: Beholding Bernini’s Apollo and Daphne
   Sebastian Schütze  Speaking Likeness: The Poetics of Absence and Presence in 17th Century Portraiture
16:00 Coffee break
### Friday, June 25

16:20 **Keynote**  
Lina Bolzoni  
Double-Sided Portraits: Literary Models, Modes of Perception between the Mind and the Body

### Saturday, June 26

9:00 **Registration / Coffee**

9:30 **Session V – Art in the South**

- **Fredrika Jacobs**  
  Visual Accounting, Miracles and Images in Renaissance Italy
- **Elsje van Kessel**  
  Between Miracle and Art: Titian and Giorgione in the Scuola di San Rocco

10:50 **Coffee break**

11:10 **Session VI – Art in the North**

- **Frédéric Cousinié**  
  Signifiance des fluides: La lactation de saint Bernard (Nicolas Mignard, 1640)
- **Joanna Woodall**  
  Life in Effigy
- **Christine Göttler**  
  The Long and Multiple Lives of Images: Copying as Artistic Response

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 **Keynote**  
Frank Fehrenbach  
Numisma ex numismate. Titian’s Portrait of Jacopo da Strada (1567-68)

17:20 **Concluding remarks**

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**Speakers' affiliation:** Lina Bolzoni (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa), Jan Bremmer (University of Groningen), Stijn Bussel (Leiden University/University of Groningen), Frédéric Cousinié (Université de Rouen), Ralph Dekoninck (Université catholique de Louvain), Maarten Delbeke (Ghent Univ./Leiden University), Caroline van Eck (Leiden University), Claire Farago (University of Colorado at Boulder), Frank Fehrenbach (Harvard University), Iain Fenlon (University of Cambridge), Jason Gaiger (Open University, UK), Joris van Gastel (Leiden University), Christine Göttler (Universität Bern), Lex Hermans (Leiden University), Fredrika Jacobs (Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond), Elsje van Kessel (Leiden University), Robin Osborne (University of Cambridge), Alina Payne (Harvard University), Matthew Rampley (University of Birmingham), Sebastian Schütze (Universität Wien), Minou Schraven (Leiden University), Peter Stewart (Courtauld Institute, London), Arnold Witte (University of Amsterdam), Joanna Woodall (Courtauld Institute, London).

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**Registration**

To register, please send an email to Joris van Gastel (j.j.van.gastel@hum.leidenuniv.nl) or Elsje van Kessel (e.van.kessel@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

The registration fee, for three days only, is € 100,- or € 30,- for (PhD) students.

Participation is free (though please register by sending an e-mail) for:

- students of the Department of Art History of Leiden University,
- members of the Huizinga Instituut,
- members of the Onderzoekschool Kunstgeschiedenis,
- members of the LUICD.

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**Location**

The conference will be held in the Lokhorstkerk.

Pieterskerkstraat 1  
2311 SV Leiden

Please click here for a map.

- Conference poster