



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



Medieval and Early Modern Art History Workshop

School of Culture and Communication

Date: April 19th, 2021

Time: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

For zoom link  shiqiul@student.unimelb.edu.au

Presenters

Joanne Morice

Baldassare degli Embriachi, World Maps and Trade Networks

Baldassare degli Embriachi was a Florentine merchant and art entrepreneur. He is most famous for the carved ivory and bone objects that were produced from his workshops in Venice and Florence during the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. However, in 1399 he commissioned four world maps (mappamundi) from the Majorcan cartographer Jaume Riba, and a Genoese painter Francesco Becaria, who were both residing in Barcelona at the time. Taking the commissioning of these maps by Embriachi as a starting point this paper seeks to understand his participation in knowledge making and transfer in the late fourteenth century and to articulate, in part, his relationship to the diverse network of artisans, traders, and map makers that was active in Spain, and the Mediterranean during the period.

Samantha Happe

Mumia: A Miraculous Cure-all for Louis XIV

In 1715, Persian ambassador Mehmet Reza Beg arrived at Versailles amidst an opulent display of French splendour, bringing with him a small assortment of Persian gifts. The Beg brought a wooden casket adorned with inlaid gold arabesques intended for Louis XIV. Inside were a small assortment of gifts including pearls, turquoise, and two boxes of mumia. Drawn from Persian mines, mumia was purported to cure myriad internal and external wounds, ulcers, and broken bones. My object-based analysis will begin to reveal the symbolism of this unique and under-studied mineral, considering its role as a gift between France and Persia.

Shiqiu Liu

Depicting European Saints in Yuan China

In 1950s, two grave stones dated to the mid-fourteenth century with Latin inscriptions were discovered in Yangzhou, a prosperous commercial city in Yuan China to the north of Yangzi river. On the two stones, there are visual depictions of Christ, Mary and the Patron Saints of the deceased children, but all in the Chinese linear drawing style mostly used in contemporary woodblock illustrations. They are rare examples of medieval European images created in an East Asian port city. In this presentation, I would like to propose a possible source for the model that the images on the stone were following and will discuss how a Chinese pictorial convention was incorporated with the European motifs.

Victoria Laine

The Advancements in Technology in the High Medieval Western Europe

The medieval period is mistakenly regarded as with few advancements in technology, society or the arts. However, from the extant art of the period, this was indeed an age of great ingenuity and inventiveness. This presentation will talk about a stunning embroidered vestment, the Cope of the Virgin Mary, to demonstrate the many advancements in technology during the medieval period that cumulatively led to developments in how art was considered, produced, and valued. These improvements and discoveries allowed the creation of high-quality, hand-made objects of art which are of great beauty, technical mastery and creative ingenuity beyond the boundaries of media, class and skills.