Sister Act: Female Monasticism and the Arts across Europe ca. 1250 – 1550

13.45 – 18.30, Friday 13 March 2015 (with registration from 13.15) 09.30 – 16.30, Saturday 14 March 2015 (with registration from 09.00) Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

From important research undertaken over the last three decades, it has become evident that the institutionalisation of late Medieval and Renaissance religious women developed under very different conditions from that of their male counterparts. Furthermore, monastic foundations for women rarely adhere to a set of norms. Architecturally, female religious settlements range from large complexes erected in the most fashionable styles of their time, to basic dwellings within converted secular buildings. Diversity can also be observed in the commissioning and use of works of art, from second-hand or inherited artworks to specially-commissioned, lavish monuments and vast cycles of wall paintings. In short, artworks in the female religious context escape generalisation.

This conference will compare, contrast and juxtapose recent scholarly approaches to the art of religious women from approximately 1250 to 1550. Its primary aim is to foster exchange between scholars working on different European regions, ranging from the German-speaking areas of Europe, across the Italian peninsula to the still heavily understudied material in England, Spain, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. The speakers will examine female monastic art and architecture in terms of devotion and ritual, patronage, space, communal identity and artistic practice. This rich programme, chronologically bridging the gap between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, seeks to initiate a broader scholarly conversation, which is long overdue.

Organised by Laura Llewellyn and Michaela Zöschg (The Courtauld Institute of Art).

Ticket/entry details: £26 (£16 students, Courtauld staff/students and concessions)

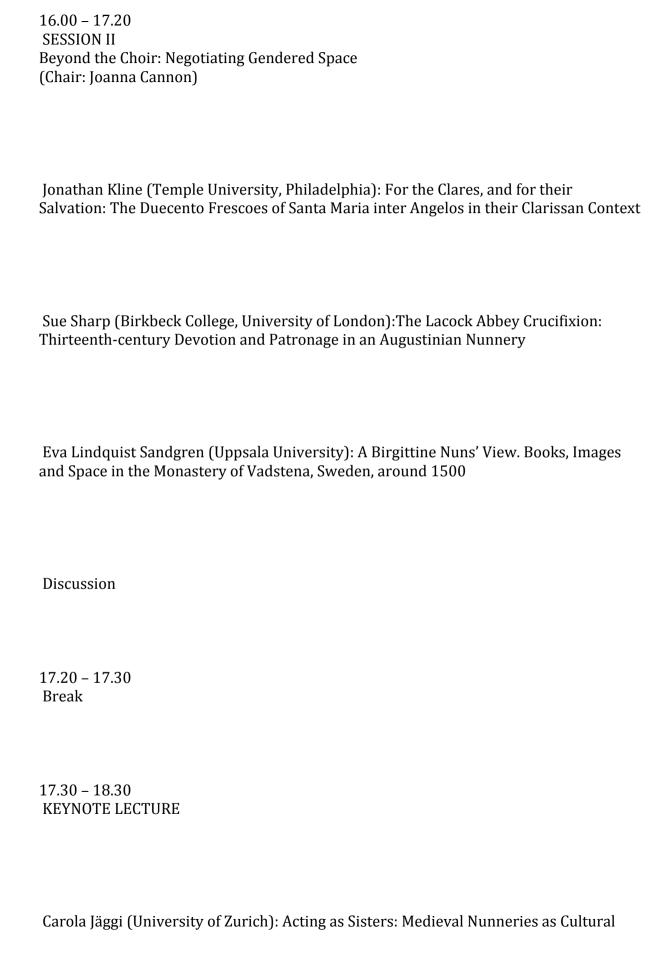
BOOK ONLINE: http://ci.tesseras.com/internet/shop Or send a cheque made payable to 'The Courtauld Institute of Art' to: Research Forum Events Co-ordinator, Research Forum, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R ORN, stating 'Sister Act'. For further information, email ResearchForum@courtauld.ac.uk.

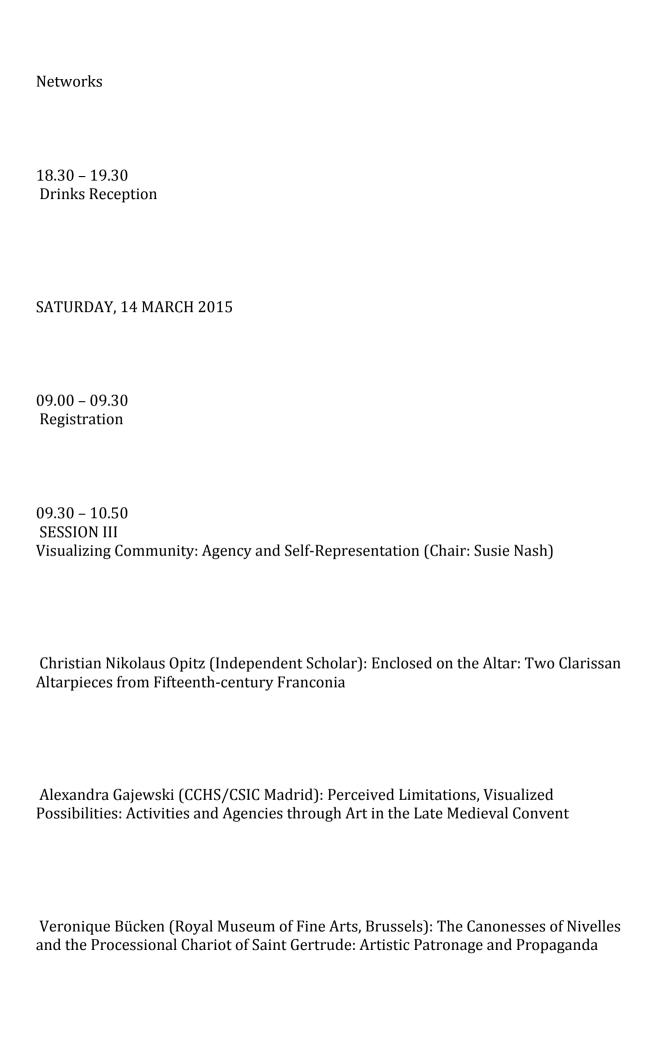
PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 13 MARCH 2015

13.15 – 13.45 Registration

13.45 – 14.10 Introduction: Laura Llewellyn and Michaela Zöschg (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
14.10 – 15.30 SESSION I In the Choir: Images, Prayer and Devotion (Chair TBC)
Jennifer Atwood (Museum of the Bible, Oklahoma City): 'How Can I Find Words to Tell About the Burning Love With Which You Sought Him': Understanding Female Devotion and Priorial Use in the Littlemore Anselm
Giuseppe Capriotti (University of Macerata): The Choir as machina memorialis. The Mystical Experience and the Artistic Patronage of Sister Battista da Varano
Daniela Rywiková (University of Ostrava): 'Veni sponsa Christi'. Female Monastic Spirituality and Art in Late Medieval Bohemia
Discussion
15.30 – 16.00 Coffee & Tea





Discussion
10.50 – 11.20 Coffee & Tea
11.20 – 12.15 SESSION IV Painting and Stitching: Artists in the Convent (Chair: Laura Llewellyn)
Fausta Navarro (Galleria Palatina & Museum of San Salvi, Florence): 'Orate pro Pictora' (Pray for the paintress). Suor Plautilla Nelli as a professional nun painter in Florence mid XVI century
Ingela Wahlberg (Uppsala University): In the Nun's Style: A Discussion of Ornamentation and Technique in Birgittine Embroidery from Sweden and Finland in the Late Fifteenth Century.
Discussion
12.15 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 14.50SESSION V Family and Memoria: Royal and Aristocratic Patrons (Chair: Tom Nickson) James D'Emilio (University of South Florida, Tampa): Aristocratic Women and Cistercian Nunneries in León: Family Politics and Religious Reform Stefanie Seeberg (CCHS/CSIC, Madrid): Commemorative Function of Art in the Female Monastery of Altenberg under Gertrud of Thüringen (1227-1297) Diana Lucía Gómez Chacón (University Complutense of Madrid): Servire a Dio eÌ regnare. Queenship and Dominican Spirituality in Beatrice of Portugal's Sepulchre Discussion 14.50 - 15.20Coffee & Tea

15.20 – 16.15 SESSION VI

Nuns and the City: Female Monastic Communities within the Urban Fabric

(Chair: Michaela Zöschg)

Paper tbc
Saundra Weddle (Drury University, Springfield): Venetian Convent Architecture in Its Topographical Contexts
Discussion
16.15 – 16.30 Closing Remarks: Scott Nethersole (The Courtauld Institute of Art)