

WOMEN IN MEDIEVAL ART: SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Jane Welch Williams, University of Arizona



This course will address a series of issues concerning the imagery and lives of women in the middle ages. We will begin with readings in feminist theory, in order to ground our thinking in most recent feminist methodology. ... Readings will be discussed ...in relation to imagery. The juxtaposing of historical and artistic evidence will provide a critical understanding of the ideological function of medieval art in framing women's roles and in setting attitudes toward women.

Topic 1. Feminist methodology today

Pollock, Griselda, *Vision and Difference* (London and New York) 1988.
Gouma- Peterson, Thalia, and Patricia Mathews, "The Feminist Critique of Art History," *Art Bulletin*, 69 (1987): 326-57. Nead, Lynda, "Feminism, Art History, and Cultural Politics," in *The New Art History*, eds. A.L. Rees, F. Borzello (Atlantic Highlands, 1988), 120-24. Scott, Joan, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review*, 91.5 (1986): 1053-75. Suleiman, Susan Rubin, "(Re)writing the Body: The Politics and Poetics of Female Eroticism," in *The Female Body in Western Culture: Contemporary Perspectives* (Cambridge, 1985), 7-29.

Topic 2. General historical studies of medieval women

Lucas, Angela, Conclusion to *Women in the Middle Ages* (Brighton, 1983) 170-79. Bede, Excerpts from Pope Gregory's letter to St. Augustine, in *A History of the English Church and People*, 76-83. Kinnear, Mary, Chap. 5, "The Early Christians"; Chap. 6, "The Middle Ages." Labarge, Margaret Wade, *Women in Medieval Life*, Chap. 1, "The Precursors"; Chap. 2, "The Mould for Medieval Women." Lehmann, Andrée, *Le Rôle de la femme dans l'histoire de France au moyen âge* (Paris, 1952). Stuard, Susan Mosher, "Introduction" and "Fashion's Captives: Medieval Women in French Historiography," in *Women in Medieval History and Historiography* (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1987), vii-xvi; 59-80.

Topic 3. Evil Women: Eve, Luxuria, prostitutes

Brundage, James A., "Prostitution in Medieval Canon Law," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages* (Chicago and London, 1989), 79-99. Camille, Michael, "Idols in the Mind," *The Gothic Idol* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1989), 298-316. Kraus, Henry, "Eve and Mary: Conflicting Images of Medieval Woman," in *The Living Theater of Medieval Art*, 1967 (reprnt. in *Feminism and Art History*, 79-100). Little, Lester K., "Pride Goes before Avarice: Social Change and the Vices in Latin Christendom," *American*

Historical Review, 76 (1971): 16-49. Warner, Marina, "The Second Eve," "The Penitent Whore," in *Alone of All Her Sex* (New York, 1976), 50-67, 224-35. Werckmeister, O.K., "The Lintel Fragment Representing Eve from Saint-Lazare, Autun," *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institute*, 35 (1972): 1-30.

Topic 4. Marriage and family

Atkinson, Clarissa, "Physiological Motherhood: The Wandering Womb." Chap. in *The Oldest Vocation: Christian Motherhood in the Middle Ages* (Ithaca and London: Cornell Univ. Press, 1991): 23-63. Coleman, Emily, "Infanticide in the Early Middle Ages," *Women in Medieval Society*, 47-70. Duby, Georges, *The Knight, the Lady, and the Priest. The Making of Modern Marriage in Medieval France* (New York, 1983): Chap. 1, "The Marriages of King Philip I," 3-21; Chap. 10, "The Royal Family," 189-209. Herlihy, David, "Land, Family, and Women in Continental Europe, 700-1200," in *Women in Medieval Society*, ed. Susan Mosher Stuard (Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1976) 13-45. Lucas, Angela, Part 2: Women and Marriage, in *Women in the Middle Ages*, 61-134. McNamara, Jo Ann, and Suzanne Wemple, "The Power of Women through the Family in Medieval Europe, 500-1100," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, eds. Mary Erler, Maryanne Kowaleski (Athens, Ga., London, 1988): 83-101. Westphal-Wihl, Sarah, "The Ladies' Tournament: Marriage, Sex, and Honor in 13th Century Germany," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 162-89.

Topic 5. Women's Property and Power

Ferrante, Joan, "Public Postures and Private Maneuvers: Roles Medieval Women Play," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, 213-29. Gold, Penny Schine, *The Lady and the Virgin*, Chap. 4, "Secular Life: Control of Property," 116-44. Howell, Martha C. "Citizenship and Gender: Women's Political Status in Northern Medieval Cities," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, 37-60. Labarge, Margaret Wade, "Women Who Ruled: Noble Ladies," *Women in Medieval Life*, 72-97. Rezak, Brigitte Bedos, "Women, Seals, and Power in Medieval France, 1150-1350," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, 61-81.

Topic 6. Women's Work

Bennett, Judith M., and Maryanne Kowaleski, "Crafts, Gilds, and Women in the Middle Ages: Fifty Years after Marian K. Dale," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 11-25. Blumenfeld-Kosinski, Renate, "Caesarean Birth in the Artistic Imagination," chap. in *Not of Women Born* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1990): 48-90. Bynum, Caroline Walker, "Woman as Body and as Food," chap. 9 of *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*, 260-302. Green, Monica, "Women's Medical Practice and Health Care in Medieval Europe," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 39-78. Harksen, Sibylle, "Women at Work,"

in *Women in the Middle Ages*, 23-28. Labarge, Margaret Wade, "Medieval Women as Healers and Nurses," "Women Who Toiled: Townswomen and Peasants," chaps. in *Women in Medieval Life*, 170-94, 144-68. Slatkin, Wendy, Chap. 2, "The Medieval World," in *Women Artists in History* (Englewood Cliffs, 1990): 22-37.

Topic 7. Women Saints

Carasco, Magdalena Elizabeth, "Spirituality in Context: The Romanesque Illustrated Life of St. Radegund of Poitiers," *Art Bulletin*, 72 (1990): 414-35. Hahn, Cynthia, *Passio Kiliani/Ps. Thotimus, Passio Margaretae/Orationes. Vollständige Faksimilie-Ausgabe des Codex Ms. I 189 aus dem Besitz der Niedersächsischen Landesbibliothek Hannover. Kommentarband, Codices Selecti 83* (Graz, 1988). Schulenberg, Jane Tibbetts, "Female Sanctity: Public and Private Roles, ca. 500-1100," in *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*, 102-25. Knically, Carol, excerpts from "The Reliquary Statue of Saint Foy." Unpub. essay.

Topic 8. Female personifications of Virtues, Arts, and the like

Camille, Michael, "Deformations of Diana as a Gothic Goddess," in *The Gothic Idol*, 101-14. Katzenellenbogen, Adolf, "The Illustrated Manuscripts of the Psychomachia and their Influence," and "The Virtues Triumphant," in *Allegories of the Virtues and the Vices in Medieval Art* (New York, 1964): 1-21. Shelton, Kathleen J, "Imperial Tyches," *Gesta*, 18 (1979): 27-38.

Topic 9. The noble woman and her education

Bell, Susan Groag, "Medieval Women Book Owners: Arbiters of Lay Piety and Ambassadors of Culture," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 135-61. Gold, Penny Schine, "Secular Image: Women in the *Chansons de geste*," Chap. 1 of *The Lady and the Virgin*, 1-42. Lucas, Angela, "Women and Letters," Part 3 of *Women in the Middle Ages*, 137-79. Shahar, Shulamith, "Women in the Nobility," chap. 5 of *The Fourth Estate: A History of Women in the Middle Ages*, tr. C. Galai (London and New York, 1983): 126-73).

Topic 10. Spirituality and Medieval Nuns

Bede, Chaps. 7-11, *A History of the English Church and People*, late 7th c., 218-23. Bolton, Brenda M., "Mulieres Sanctae," in *Women in Medieval Society*, 141-58. Gold, Penny Schine, "Religious Life: The Monastic Experience," Chap. 3 of *The Lady and the Virgin*, 76-115. Kraemer, Ross S., "The Conversion of Women to Ascetic Forms of Christianity," in *Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages*, 198-207. Lucas, Angela, "Women and Religion," Part 1, *Women in the Middle Ages*, 3-58. McNamara, Jo Ann, "Muffled Voices: The Lives of Consecrated Women in the Fourth Century," *Medieval Religious Women*, 11-29. Schulenberg, Jane Tibbetts, "Women's Monastic Communities, 500-1100: Patterns of Expansion and Decline," in

Sisters and Workers in the Middle Ages, 208-39. Skinner, Mary, "Benedictine Life for Women in Central France 850-1100: A Feminist Revival," in *Medieval Religious Women*, 87-113.

- Topic 11. Special women: queens, writers, artists
Christine de Pizan, *The Book of The City of Ladies*, tr. E.J. Richards. New York, 1982. Hildegard von Bingen, *Scivias.*, tr. Mother Columba Hart and Jane Bishop (New York, 1990), 59-90. Labarge, Margaret Wade. "Women Who Ruled: Queens," chap. in *Women in Medieval Life*, 44-71.
- Topic 12. Mary Virgin Mother
Camille, Michael. "Virgin or Venus? The Gothic Goddess 'Comes to Life'," in *The Gothic Idol*, 220-41. Gold, Penny Schine. "Religious Image: The Iconography of the Virgin Mary," chap. 2 of *The Lady and the Virgin*. Warner, Marina, "The Virgin Birth," appendices and epilogue, *Alone of All Her Sex*.
- Topic 13. Anonymous. "The Miracles of the Blessed Virgin accomplished at Chartres," Vatican Ms. Regina 339.

THE MEDIEVAL FEMINIST ART HISTORY PROJECT



An important new initiative is the Medieval Feminist Art History Project, organized by Paula Gerson and Pamela Sheingorn, who are collecting syllabi and other resources for teaching. They regularly publish a list of feminist scholars with addresses and current research interests and projects. For more information, write to Paula Gerson, International Center for Medieval Art, The Cloisters, Fort Tryon Park, New York, NY 10040; or, to Pamela Sheingorn, Art Department, PO Box 281, Baruch College-CUNY, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

MFAHP: A PROGRESS REPORT

Pamela Sheingorn, Baruch College



The Medieval Feminist Art History Project, originally developed under the wing of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, has now become an independent, sister organization. What follows is a report on our progress to date.

Brief history

We began with a session sponsored by *MFN* at the 1991 Kalamazoo congress. Entitled "The Medieval Feminist Art History Project," the session's standing-room-only audience responded with intense interest and gratifying enthusiasm to papers delivered by Madeline Caviness and Ann Roberts. With our title, Paula Gerson and I had hoped to