

# Asclepius, the Paintbrush, and the Pen: Representations of Disease in Medieval and Early Modern European Art and Literature

## FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018 ☞ UCLA ROYCE HALL ROOM 314

8:30 Registration, coffee

9:00 Welcoming remarks

### SESSION 1 | Allison Collins (UCLA), chair

9:15 **Francis Wells** (Royal Papworth Hospital, Cambridge)  
“The Role of the Decorative Arts in Disease”

10:00 Break

10:15 **Joachim Küpper** (Freie Universität Berlin)  
“Malady in Literary Texts from the Medieval and the Early Modern Periods – Some Hypotheses On a Paradoxical Constellation”

11:00 Break

11:15 **Gaia Gubbini** (Freie Universität Berlin)  
“Leprosy, Melancholy, Folly, and their Representations in Medieval French Literature”

12:00 Break

12:15 **Alain Touwaide** (Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions)  
“The Art of Medicine in Byzantium: Disease and Disability in Byzantine Manuscripts”

1:00 Lunch break

### SESSION 2 | Rinaldo Canalis (UCLA), chair

2:15 **Domenico Bertoloni Meli** (Indiana University Bloomington)  
“Textures of Lesions – Textures of Prints”

3:00 Break

3:15 **Manuela Gallerani** (Università di Bologna)  
“La malattia nell’arte e l’arte nella malattia: riflessioni a partire da alcuni esempi paradigmatici di artisti italiani del Rinascimento”

4:00 Break

4:15 **Bruno Capaci** (Università di Bologna)  
“I medici di Lucrezia Borgia”

5:00 Reception

## SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018 ☞ UCLA ROYCE HALL ROOM 314

9:00 Coffee

### SESSION 3 | Monique Kornell (CMRS Associate), chair

9:30 **Valeria Finucci** (Duke University)  
“The King and the Art of Brain Surgery”

10:15 Break

10:30 **Alfonso Paoletta** (University of Naples)  
“The ‘mal franzoso’ between art, history and literature. Paracelso and Della Porta”

11:15 Break

11:30 **Efraín Kristal** (UCLA)  
“Nicolas Poussin’s ‘The Plague at Ashdod’ and the French Disease”

12:15 Lunch Break

### SESSION 4 | Guendalina Ajello Mahler (CMRS Associate)

1:30 **Jenni Kuuliala** (University of Tampere)  
“Miracle and the Monstrous: Disability and Deviant Bodies in the Late Middle Ages”

2:15 Break

2:30 **Lori Jones** (University of Ottawa)  
“‘Fevers, Botches, and Carbuncles’: Describing the Plague in Late Medieval and Early Modern Medical Treatises”

3:15 Break

3:30 **Roberto Fedi** (Università per Stranieri di Perugia)  
“The Ailing Artist”

4:15 Concluding Remarks



Humanity has always approached disease with a mixture of curiosity and dread. Medieval and early modern people were no exception, displaying a deep fascination with virulent ailments and all sorts of physical deformities. But despite this attraction, few artists of these eras engaged in the depiction of disease. When they did, their expression was particular to the medium used and differed among artists even when using the same medium. Since such an effort was outside their norm, what factors drove them to pick up pen or brush to approach maladies as a subject of esthetic expression? How did the artists' experiences influence their choices in portraying disease? Were these depictions the result of something that interfered with their intent to faithfully reproduce the best of nature, or do they reflect a rebellion against what we generally assume to be the period's artistic and literary quest: the portrayal of spiritual beauty and, later, the rediscovered beauty of the human body? This conference, organized by Prof. Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA) and Prof. Rinaldo Canalis (David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA), explores these questions and the contemporary perspective they elicit.

Advance registration is requested. Please register online at <http://cmrs.ucla.edu/event/cmrs-medical-humanities-conference/>. No fee. Limited seating.

Parking information is online at [main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors](http://main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors)

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A conference at the  
UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
May 4 - 5, 2018