The Tudor Image

Graduate Student Summer Seminar
June 20–25, 2016

Scholarship on the visual culture of early modern Britain has traditionally focused on portraiture as a historical source for understanding elite society in the post-Reformation period. Recent scholarship, however, has sought to push inquiry in new directions, revealing a more nuanced picture and broadening our view of sitters, artists’ practices, and sites of display.

In June 2016 the Yale Center for British Art will offer a week-long graduate student seminar for doctoral candidates with an interest in early modern visual culture. The seminar will examine such topics as the survival of pre- and post-Reformation narrative through portraits, wall paintings, and textiles; the nature and working practices of painters’ workshops; the iconography of portraiture across the range from royal to citizen portraits; the broad production of the early modern artist in Britain, including painting for celebratory occasions and for the applied and decorative arts; and the places and spaces of display, both past and present. In addition, the seminar will consider recent initiatives in the technical examination of portraiture, which have broken new ground in the understanding of artist and workshop practice and the issues inherent in artist attribution and the identification of the sitters. Time will be spent in collections and conservation studios.

The seminar will be led by Lisa Ford, Assistant Director for Research at the Yale Center for British Art, and Maurice Howard, Professor of History of Art at the University of Sussex. Technical exploration of the Center’s Tudor-period portraits, including the examination of contemporary painting materials and workshop practices will be conducted with Jessica David, Associate Conservator of Paintings, and Edward Town, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Collections Information and Access. Other specialists, including curators, art historians, and conservators, will be involved in teaching special sessions during the course.

The seminar is open to current PhD students, from any university internationally, whose doctoral research intersects with issues relating to the study of art and architecture in the early modern period. In addition, students seeking to pursue careers in museums or heritage institutions will be considered.

The Center will provide economy airfare, ground transportation, meals, and accommodation at Yale for the selected applicants. Students are expected to undertake reading assignments in advance of the seminar. A syllabus and details of assignments will be available in late spring 2016.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications must be submitted electronically. Please include a CV and a statement (no more than two pages) of how your research interests intersect with the focus of the seminar, and what you hope to gain for your own work by participation. Applications should be e-mailed to:

jean.delbuono@yale.edu
Jean DelBuono
Senior Administrative Assistant
Department of Research

Please also address any inquiries to Jean DelBuono.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday, March 4, 2016.

THE GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER SEMINAR IS GENEROSLY SUPPORTED BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION.