

Oxford Classical Archaeology Seminar, Hilary Term, 2015

Art on the Edge: The Margins of Classical Culture?

Organized by Dr Peter Stewart, Classical Art Research Centre

Despite its diversity, Graeco-Roman art is characterized by distinctive principles of representation and an iconographical and stylistic repertoire which were extraordinarily persistent and influential even in antiquity. This classical art tradition ultimately spread under Roman rule from Scotland to Arabia, and from Morocco to Bulgaria. Classical art was also used, adapted, and imitated far beyond the political reach of Greece and Rome, for example in areas of Europe outside Roman control, or in the Buddhist art of Gandhara (which was once even presented a form of Roman provincial art, hundreds of miles beyond the classical world). Using a wide range of case-studies from across and beyond Classical and Hellenistic Greece and the Roman Empire, this series of seminars interrogates the notion of art on the 'edges' of the classical world. As well as exploring some of the fascinating material to be found on the 'fringes', the seminars will address broader questions such as the following: Are we right to use words like 'influence' and diffusion in describing the spread of classical art? What *are* the edges of an art tradition, and are they purely geographical? Can the concept of centre and periphery be redeemed as a way of explaining classical art? What is provincialism in art? How does art relate to social, cultural and political identities on the fringes of the classical world? Can 'classical' art exist outside the geographical limits of Greek or Roman society?

Programme

- Week 1 Monday 19th January, 2015
Mr Holger Hitgen (German Archaeological Institute, Sanaa Branch)
Beyond the Empire: South Arabia and its Cultural Ties with the Roman World during the First Centuries AD
- Week 2 Monday 26th January, 2015
Dr Peter Stewart (Classical Art Research Centre, Oxford)
The Laocoon Jātaka? Classical Narrative in Gandharan Art
- Week 3 Monday 2nd February, 2015
Dr Catherine Draycott (University of Liverpool)
The Eastern Edges of Early Classical Art: The Early Classical Style in Fifth Century BC Anatolia
- Week 4 Monday 9th February, 2015
Dr Javier Rodriguez-Corral (University of Santiago de Compostela/Institute of Archaeology, Oxford)
Art in Unstable places: Sculpture in the Northwestern Iberia Hillforts (1st century BC- 1st AC)
- Week 5 Monday 16th February, 2015
Dr Fraser Hunter (National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh)
A Frontier Effect? Celtic Art in Roman Britain
- Week 6 Monday 23rd February, 2015
Dr Lucy Audley-Miller (Somerville College, Oxford)
Art in the 'Margins': Representing the Dead in Roman Syria
- Week 7 Monday 2nd March, 2015
Dr Rachel Wood (British Museum/Wolfson College, Oxford)
Of Anchors and Altars: The Role of Greek Art in Elymais (2nd Century BC - 3rd Century AD)
- Week 8 Monday 9th March, 2015
Prof Peter Noelke (Archaeological Institute, University of Cologne)
Aeneas on Funerary Monuments in the Northern Provinces of the Roman Empire

Seminars take place at 5pm in the Lecture Theatre, Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles', Oxford, OX1 3LU. All are welcome. For further information contact peter.stewart@classics.ox.ac.uk