



WHAT WAS BEAUTY?

Friday, October 21, 2016, 2:30 - 5:30PM
UNIVERSITY CLUB, INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION

This symposium brings a sharp focus to the question about what beauty *was*, what role it played in the human experience of past centuries, and how this legacy continues to shape our present consideration of and/or aversions to beauty.

MICHAEL COLE: “Sofonisba Anguissola’s Beauty”

For decades, beauty has been central to the discourse on Renaissance portraiture, and we now have a sense of the norms and standards that artists followed when painting faces. But to what degree was it possible to resist conforming to beauty’s rule when making a portrait? What values might patrons and artists have pursued that stood at odds with the principles of beauty? This lecture suggests that the work of Sofonisba Anguissola is a particular rich place to pose these questions. MICHAEL COLE is Chair of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University.

LYDIA GOEHR: “On beauty’s moralizing moods”

What turns on our moving away from judging an object to be beautiful to asking what it means for persons to aspire to beauty in their lives? This lecture will survey the sort of thoughts that have inspired theorists over the centuries to prohibit our laughing at the beautiful and most especially with the ugliness of an open mouth. LYDIA GOEHR is Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University.

These keynote lectures will be followed by a Roundtable with three IU Faculty: Marco Arnaudo (French & Italian, “The Shape of Almost Nothing”), Kristina Muxfeldt (Musicology, “Ephemeral Beauty, Baroque Musings in a Schubert Song”) and Sonia Velázquez (Religious Studies, Comparative Literature, “On Silk, Leather, Saints and Letters”). Each will bring an object of beauty from the past for us all to consider together.

This event is organized by the Renaissance Studies Program with support from the College of Arts & Sciences, the College Arts & Humanities Institute, the Robert E. and Avis Tarrant Burke Foundation, Themester 2016, the Departments of Comparative Literature, French & Italian, Music Theory, Philosophy and Religious Studies, the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the Medieval Studies Institute.

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BEAUTY
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