

SEEING THE HUMAN HEART

A public seminar

Open to all and free of charge

To ensure a place, please register by emailing eunice.berry@cardiov.ox.ac.uk

Tuesday 26 November 2013, 5pm - 7.45 pm

Headley Lecture Theatre
Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
University of Oxford

Organisers: Prof. Robin Choudhury and Dr Jim Harris

Programme

5:00 – 5:10 The Heart in the Ashmolean

Over time, the heart has been seen, imaged and conceived in many different ways. Introducing the symposium, this brief introduction will examine ideas of the heart through the collections of the Ashmolean, from Ancient Egypt to medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Europe.

Dr Jim Harris, Andrew W Mellon Foundation Teaching Curator, Ashmolean Museum University Engagement Programme, University of Oxford

5:10 – 5:30 The Medieval Heart

Notions of the heart drawn from the poetry, literature and philosophy of medieval Europe

Dr Heather Webb, University Lecturer in Italian Language and Literature, University of Cambridge

5:30 – 5:50 Scientific and Spiritual Images of the Heart in the Middle Ages

This paper will explore images connecting some of the spiritual and commemorative connotations of the heart with medieval ideas of its anatomy

Dr Jack Hartnell, The Courtauld Institute of Art

5.50-6:10 Hearts Human and Divine

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...' This contribution will explore whether and how traditions of theological interpretation of the heart might shed light on questions of human health.

Dr Joshua Hordern, Lecturer in Theology, Jesus College, University of Oxford

Break

6.25-6.45 The Heart of the Object

This paper will discuss the use of scientific techniques to investigate objects in the Museum's collections

Jevon Thistlewood, Ashmolean Museum Conservation Department

6.45-7.05 Leonardo's Heart

Leonardo's anatomical drawings and their relevance to cardiac surgery in the 21st century

Mr Francis Wells, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Papworth Hospital and Associate Lecturer, University of Cambridge

7.05-7.25 The Living Heart

Understanding the heart in health and disease with contemporary medical imaging

Professor Robin Choudhury, Director of the Acute Vascular Imaging Centre and Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Oxford

7.25-7.45 Mending Broken Hearts

How can we capture innate regenerative capacity – insight from imaging heart cells

Professor Paul Riley, Chair of Development and Reproduction and BHF Professor of Regenerative Medicine

7.45-8.30 Drinks Reception

Speakers

Robin Choudhury is a Wellcome Trust Senior Fellow, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, Fellow in Biomedical Sciences at Balliol and Director of the Acute Vascular Imaging Centre. His group's research uses advanced imaging to understand processes of disease and effects of treatment in the context of atherosclerosis and heart attack. Recent work has focused on how the heart communicates with other organs in the context of injury and repair.

Jim Harris is Andrew W Mellon Foundation Teaching Curator and a member of the University Engagement Programme (UEP) at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Before coming to Oxford in 2012, he held the Andrew W Mellon Research Forum Post-Doctoral Fellowship and the Caroline Villers Research Fellowship in Conservation at the Courtauld Institute of Art, where his research concerned Italian and Northern European polychrome sculpture, c.1350-1620. His recent work has focused on the physical histories of tombs of the English Long Reformation in two London churches and he has published on Florentine and German painting, Burgundian and Netherlandish sculpture and contemporary drawing.

Jack Hartnell is a Visiting Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, where also recently completed an AHRC-funded doctoral thesis that uses the medical sciences as a framework for examining medieval art and art history. In 2013-14 he is also a Teaching Fellow at University College London, and from 2014 will take up a Post-Doctoral Fellowship held between the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, where he will be focusing on the design of surgical knives and saws in the late Middle Ages. Amongst other institutions he has been an invited speaker at the University of Oxford, the *Medieval Seminar Series* of the University of Cambridge, the Académie Nationale de Médecine in Paris, and the Photographers' Gallery, London.

Joshua Hordern is University Lecturer in Christian Ethics, a Fellow of Harris Manchester College and Lecturer in Theology at Jesus College. Before coming to Oxford, he was a Junior Research Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge. Josh's current research interests include Christian ethics and compassion in healthcare. He is currently initiating a new research project in Christian and Islamic Political Thought alongside other colleagues in Oxford. His publications include *Political Affections: Civic Participation and Moral Theology* (OUP, 2013).

Paul Riley is a British Heart Foundation Professor of Regenerative Medicine based at the University of Oxford. He is also Director of a recently awarded BHF Oxbridge Centre for Regenerative Medicine. He was formerly Professor of Molecular Cardiology at the UCL-Institute of Child Health, London, where he was a principal investigator within the Molecular Medicine Unit for 12 years. Prior to this, he obtained his PhD at UCL and completed post-doctoral fellowships in Toronto and Oxford. In 2008, Professor Riley was awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the European Society of Cardiology, in recognition of his team's discovery that activated epicardial cells can regenerate the adult mammalian heart.

Jevon Thistlewood is an accredited member of the Institute of Conservation. He graduated from the University of Leeds with a BSc in Chemistry and an MA in Sculpture Studies (supported by the Henry Moore Foundation). He has an MA in the Conservation of Fine Art from the University of Northumbria at Newcastle. He joined the Ashmolean in 2007 as the first in-house Paintings Conservator in the museum's 330 year history. Current research projects include the study of (Fayum) Mummy Portraits and the restoration of a 17th Century picture frame by Grinling Gibbons.

Heather Webb is Temporary University Lecturer at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Selwyn College. She specialises in medieval literature and culture with a particular interest in Dante, Boccaccio, models of female piety (especially Catherine of Siena and Dominican penitents), and the history of concepts. She is the author of *The Medieval Heart* (Yale University Press, 2010) and is currently at work on a manuscript entitled *Persona: Dante's Poetics of the Transhuman*.

Francis C Wells is Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Papworth Hospital. His higher surgical education was gained in Cambridge University and then the National Heart, Brompton and London Chest Hospitals. He was awarded the Senior Research fellowship at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama with one of the great pioneers of Cardiac Surgery, Dr. John Kirklin, assisted by a Fulbright Scholarship. His work has been recognised by the Hunterian Professorship by the Royal College of Surgeons, London. His interest in the Arts is long-standing. The accuracy and Beauty of the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci are of particular interest and fascination. The work to be presented is extracted highlights from the culmination of many years of private study; work that has only seen the light of day since my great good fortune in meeting and associating with Professor Martin Kemp and co-workers at the Royal Collection. He is currently working with the Windsor Great Library on an exhibition of the heart drawings for the Queen's Gallery. This year saw the publication of his book "The Heart of Leonardo" which is largely based on the drawings in the Royal Collection. He has exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2004, and shared the Hugh Casson prize for drawing with Paulo Rego and Frank Albine.