

The 'I' in the Making

Art and the Individual, 200-1600

When, how and why – if at all - was the modern 'I' made, and how did it function in artistic practice and discourse? These are the central questions of this conference in the Royal Dutch Institute at Rome. Our investigations range from post classical Antiquity to the closing of the Renaissance, and treat figures of central importance to the literary tradition like Augustine, Dante, Petrarch, Montaigne, and artists like Raphael and Caravaggio. From a comparative angle, moreover, the Arabic and Hebrew poetic tradition will be scrutinised. Lastly, the conflict between religion and individuality will be treated.



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Rome, May 27th – 29th 2009



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Wednesday, 27 May 2009*Introduction*

19.30 Welcome by Bernard Stolte, director of the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome;
Opening by Her Majesty's Ambassador of the Netherlands in Italy, His Excellency dr. Egbert Jacobs

19.45 Introduction to the conference's theme by the organisers, Peter Godman, David Rijser and Bert Treffers

20.30 Conference dinner

Thursday, 28 May 2009*First Session*

Chair: Reindert Falkenburg (Leiden, New York)

9.15 Lara Nicolini (Pisa), *I-Centricity: author and Authorship in Ancient Narrative (an interpretation of Apuleius' Metamorphoses)*

10.00 Burcht Pranger (Amsterdam), *Augustine's Confessions and the Diminishment of the Self*

10.45 Coffee break

11.15 Niklaus Largier (Berkeley), *Mystical Experience, Self-Fashioning, and Experiment*

12.30 Lunch at the Institute

Second Session

Chair: Bernard Stolte (Rome, Groningen)

14.30 Angel Saenz-Badillos (Madrid-Harvard), *Individualism in Late Medieval Hebrew Poetry, from Ibn Gabirol to Bonafed*

15.15 Arie Schippers (Amsterdam), *The Rise of the Individual Style in Andalusian Arabic Poetry: the case of Ibn Khafâjah (1056-1138)*

15.30 Tea break

16.00 Peter Godman (Rome), *The Falsification of Ethical Identity in the Middle Ages*

16.45 Karlheinz Stierle (Saarland), *The shaping of the 'I' in Dante and Petrarch*

17.30 Short discussion

Friday, May 29 2009*Third Session*

Chair: Claudia la Malfa (Saint Andrews)

9.15 Karl Enekel (Leiden), *The Appearance and Function of the Author in Humanist Dedicatory Prefaces*

10.00 David Rijser (Amsterdam, Rome), *Angelic Ardour: The Artistic and Philosophical Self Fashioning of Pico della Mirandola and Raphael and its Precedents*

10.45

Coffee break

11.15

Francesca Terrenato (Rome), *The shaping of individual and collective identities in Vasari's and Van Mander's lives*

12.30

Lunch at the Institute

Fourth Session

Chair: Helen Langdon (London)

14.30

Leendert Spruit (Rome), *Giordano Bruno: Self-presentation in speech, works and trial*

15.15

Tobias Leucker (Münster), *Two ways of exalting Individuality – Montaigne's strategies in presenting his Essais*

15.31

Tea break

16.00

Bert Treffers (Rome), *Caravaggio's Dog*

16.45

Reindert Falkenburg (Leiden, New York), *Summary and Conclusions*

17.30

Final discussion

18.30

Drinks

20.30

Conference dinner