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Munich : Head and Body : Evidence of Power in the Ruler Portrait Between the 14th and 18th Centuries  
**30 avril 2017, Munich : Head and Body : Evidence of Power in the Ruler  
Portrait Between the 14th and 18th Centuries**

Call for papers

Deadline : Apr 30, 2017

Conference : Munich / München, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, 01. - 02.12.2017

What meanings do head and body convey in the medieval and early modern ruler portrait ? How do its mimetic schemes and visual projections of power relate to each other ? How are conceptually abstract norms and values of rulership transposed to categories of looking, how do images of bodies concretize these norms and values, and what modes of representation do they cultivate ? Research on the history of portraits has relegated these questions to the margins ; we presently lack a systematic analysis. Nevertheless, head and body forged central attributes and categories for physical manifestations of rulership in the Middle Ages and early modern period. The specific conditions of their visual portrayal is therefore of particular interest. Unlike in republican or democratic political systems, where the presence and legitimation of ruling power is supported by an elected government or a constitution, in principalities and monarchies the prince or king himself guaranteed the legitimacy of his own rule. He did this above all else through his physical body, whose visually and haptically experienced presence first lent the necessary evidence for his sovereignty.

The conference should comprehensively thematize the different normative, material, medial, functional, and aesthetic aspects of the corporeal and material presence of rulership in painted and printed ruler portraits from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Scientific Management :

Prof. Dr. Matthias Müller (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) Prof. Dr. Ulrich Pfisterer (Ludwig Maximilians-Universität München), Dr. Elke Anna Werner (Freie Universität Berlin)

Conference languages : German and English

Applications for a lecture with an abstract of max. 3,000 characters can be sent until April 30 2017 to the following address :

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