

Miniature Adults? Images of childhood in Western Art

Date: Tuesday 18 Feb. 2020, 8.00 pm

Lecturer: Sophie Oosterwijk

Location: Vortragsraum (first floor),
Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek
Von-Melle-Park 3, 20146 Hamburg



Portrait of the eight-year-old Infanta Margarita Teresa in a Blue Dress (1659), Velázquez

LECTURE SUMMARY

When we look at early child portraits we often see only miniature adults dressed stiffly in adult-like clothes. Yet what can portraits by artists such as Rembrandt or Velázquez really tell us about children in the past? Recognising the (artistic) conventions behind such images may help to discover more about childhood throughout history, and about social expectations. So how did adults see children in the past, and how were they actually presented in art from Antiquity up to the present? Our findings could well be very different from what we might expect.

BIOGRAPHY OF LECTURER

Born in Gouda (Netherlands), Sophie has an MA and PhD in English Literature (Leiden), an MA in Medieval Studies (York) and a PhD in Art History (Leicester). She has taught at the universities of St Andrews, Leicester, Nottingham and Manchester, Sotheby's Institute of Art, National Trust, V&A, U3A, WEA and other organisations, and organised many study days, tours and visits. She is also a regular lecturer for Cambridge University and Martin Randall Travel, and Honorary Research Fellow with the School of Art History at the University of St Andrews. She has numerous publications to her name.

For further information on The Arts Society or the lectures please see our website below or send an E-Mail to: hamburg@theartsociety.org or contact the following:

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