

Academia Belgica
Via Omero, 8
Roma

Organised by

Marta Battisti | UCLouvain
Ralph Dekoninck | UCLouvain

With the support of

AurArt – Rethinking Images as the Book of the Illiterate: Towards a New Acoustic Understanding of Religious Art (1550–1650)

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Info & Registration

marta.battisti@uclouvain.be

Lino Moroni, *Descrizione del Sacro Monte della Vernia*, 1612. Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art, Washington



Rethinking Sacred Images as the Book of the Illiterate

An Early Modern, Global, and Auditory Perspective



Academia Belgica
Rome
4-5 June 2026

4 June 2026

Academia Belgica

- 9.45 Welcome with coffee
- 10.15 **Welcome address**
Cécile Evers | Director of the Academia Belgica
- Introduction**
Marta Battisti | UCLouvain
Ralph Dekoninck | UCLouvain
- 10.45 **Keynote lecture**
Wietse de Boer | Miami University
Gregory the Great, the Image, and Embodied Experience: From Religious Controversy to Missionary Encounter
- 12.00 Lunch break
- 13.30 **Seeing, Hearing, Acting**
Chair: Marta Battisti | UCLouvain
Tin Cugelj | University of Nottingham
Icons in Transit, Voices in Motion: Auditory Devotion and the Portable Image aboard Venetian Pilgrim Ships (c. 1450–1650)
Anne Lepoittevin | Sorbonne Université
“Un’arte che non solo diletta, ma muovendo doceva.” The Gospel of Varallo at the Crossroads of the Senses
Daniele V. Filippi | Università di Torino
Sound Unveiling the Image: Interaction with the Visual in Early Modern Catholic Music
- 15.30 Coffee break

- 16.00 **Textual and Vocal Resonances**
Chair: Ralph Dekoninck | UCLouvain
Steven Stowell | Concordia University
The Eye of the Mind and the Voice of the Heart: Leandro Alberti’s History of the Madonna of San Luca
Thor-Oona Pignarre-Altermatt | UCLouvain
Predicare in carta: Image, Text, and Voice in Sixteenth-Century Capuchin Guides to Prayer
Marco Faini | University at Buffalo – SUNY
Luca Pinelli’s “libretti d’imagini”: Reading, Meditation, Contemplation, and Affectivity

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- 9.30 **Embodied Perception**
Chair: Steven Stowell | Concordia University
Graylin Harrison | Dumbarton Oaks
The Underworld Embodied: Images and the Multisensory Volcanic Landscape
Célia Zuber | Université de Lausanne
The Liber Idiotarum Embodied: Saint Gregory as a Reflexive Figure in Post-Tridentine Visual Culture
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.00 Departure to Santo Stefano Rotondo
(Transportation organised for speakers only)
- 11.30 **Visit of Santo Stefano Rotondo**
Marta Battisti | UCLouvain
Space, Bodies, and Sounds in Santo Stefano Rotondo (c. 1583)

- 12.30 Return to the Academia Belgica
(Transportation organised for speakers only)
- 13.00 Lunch break
- 14.30 **Sounds of Evangelization**
Chair: Wietse de Boer | Miami University
Maria Vittoria Spissu | Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
“Talking Images” from the Ibero-American Viceroyalties. A Paradox of Enlivening and Silencing
Alison Fleming | Winston-Salem State University
Transcending the Text: Pictorial Communication in the Missionary Field
- 15.45 Coffee break
- 16.15 **Sonic Missionary Environments**
Chair: Daniele V. Filippi | Università di Torino
Jorge Oliaga Vázquez | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
What Does the Open Chapel Sound Like? Word, Image, and Sound in the Augustinian Convents of New Spain during the 16th century
Elena Amerio | Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Juli as a Multisensory Mission: Art, Devotion, and Jesuit Evangelization on Lake Titicaca
- 17.30 Closing remarks