

Call for proposals

Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek/Netherlands Yearbook for History of Art  
*The Artist in the Early Modern Netherlands*

Deadline June 1, 2006

Volume 59 (2008) will address the ways in which early modern Netherlandish artists were visualised, and visualised themselves.

This period between 1400 and 1800 has classically been considered in terms of the establishment of the elite artist as an honoured figure in society, characterised by innate talent rather than inherited blood, worthy of (self) representation and inhabiting consciously aesthetic realms. Attention has been paid to the increasing significance attributed to authorship, both as manifest in the work and as constructed through the written discourse of art. The concept of the artist as creator has involved consideration of this figure's relationship to God and to God's creation: nature. The artist's claim to both divine creativity and elevated status has been understood in terms of the possession of 'noble' virtue that emphasised the free exercise of the intellect and suppressed the material aspects of artistic production and consumption.

Yet artistic activity involved elements that were associated with bodily performance and desires: work for profit, skilled physical labour and a material product. Revisionist literature has acknowledged the artisanal and empirical dimensions of artistic creation and discourse and placed northerners at the centre of an alternative understanding of the artist that bears comparison with the enlightenment scientist.

Signatures, workshop practice, copies, reproductions and issues of copyright offer further routes to consider the ways in which the artist was imagined, as do the habits and discourses of connoisseurship, the institutions of art and systems of reception and display. This volume will take the topic forward by considering ways in which artists of all kinds, men and women from both the southern and northern Netherlands, negotiated their positions in relation to varied and often contesting ideas of what it was to be an artist. We welcome contributions that make comparisons between the Netherlands and other regions, either within or beyond Western Europe.

The visual materials of the volume may include naturalistic representations of the artist such as self portraits and images of the artist in the studio or the gallery. We are also interested in allegorical treatments of the subject and the wider issue of self-reference. Other contributions may deal with the construction of the artist in the literature of art, in legal or scientific discourse, or through the institutions of art and the market. Historiographic contributions are also welcome.

The NKJ is dedicated to a particular theme each year and publishes essays that reflect the increasing diversity of approaches to the study of Netherlandish art. Contributions to the NKJ (in Dutch, English, German, or French) are limited to a maximum length of 7,500 words, excluding the notes.

The deadline for submission of proposals is June 1 2006. Selection of proposals will take place at the beginning of July. The deadline for submission of the articles for

consideration and editorial comment is December 1 2006. Final decisions on the acceptance of any paper will be made by the editorial board following receipt of the complete text.

Proposals for papers, in the form of a 200-word abstract, should be sent to prof. dr. Joanna Woodall ([Joanna.Woodall@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.Woodall@courtauld.ac.uk)) and prof. dr. H. Perry Chapman ([pchapman@udel.edu](mailto:pchapman@udel.edu)).