

Wilful Imprecision

Irregular Measures in Graeco-Roman Antiquity

Louvain-la-Neuve, September 8–10, 2026

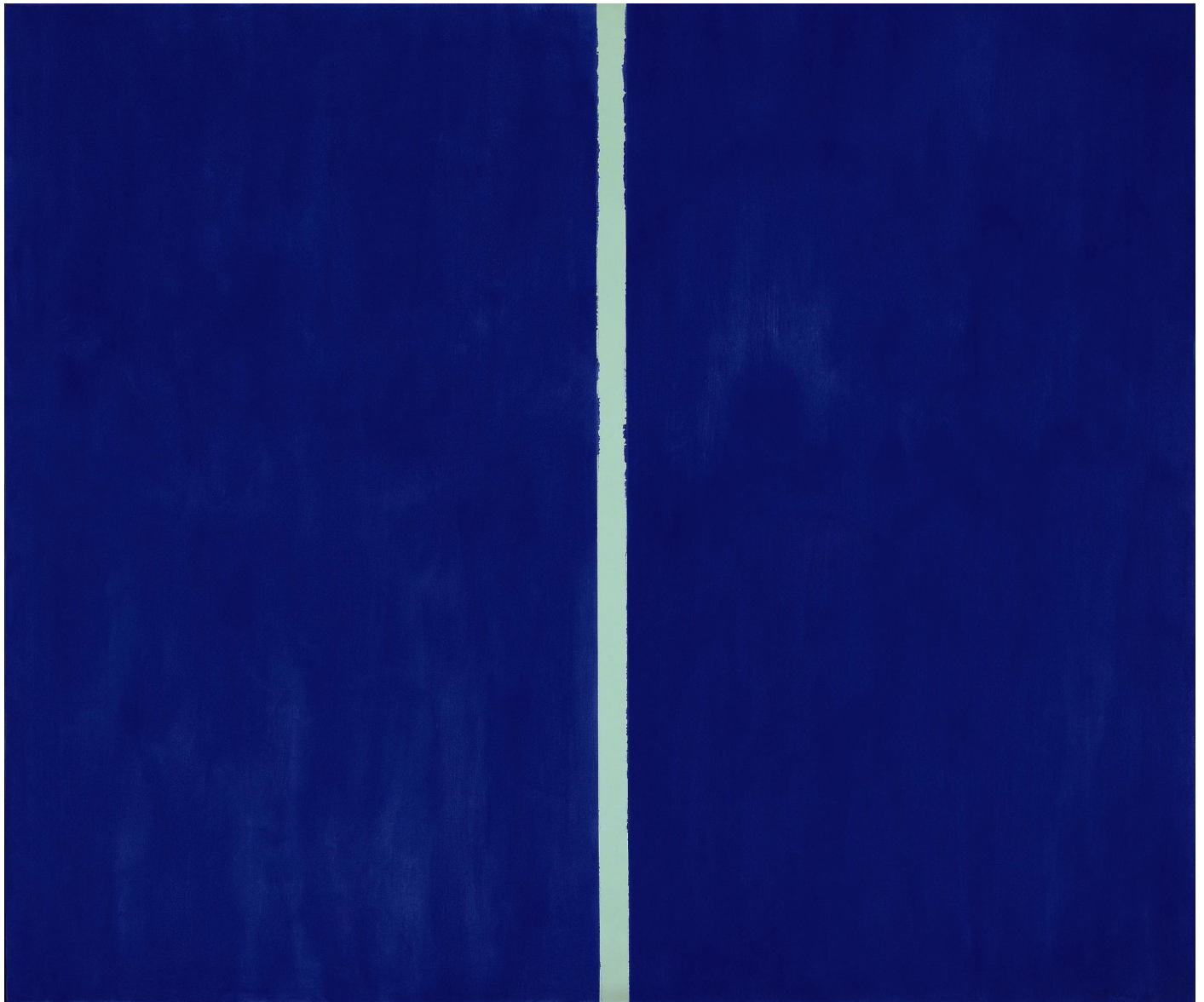
A conference in the framework of the ARC
project STASTA – *States of Standardisation*

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Tuesday, September 8

14:15 Opening Remarks

Laila Dell'Anno

14:45–17:30 Panel 1 Ethos and Pathos Beyond Measure

Antoine Paris (UCLouvain)

Were Humans in Antiquity Sensitive to the «Eternal Silence of these Infinite Spaces»? Some Reflections on Emotions towards the Immesurable in Ancient Texts

15:30– 16:00 Coffee Break

Alessio Ranno (University of Lisbon)

Homeric Myth in Bacchylides' Choral Lyric (Dithyram 1): Context, Intertextuality, and the Ideologies of ὕβρις

Tim Roe (University of Cambridge)

Measures of Success in Pindar's Victory Odes

Wednesday, September 9

9:00–12:30 Panel 2 Performing (Im)precision

Serafina Cuomo (University of Cambridge)

A Double Tale of Standards

Andrew Riggsby (UT Austin)

How Standardized are Performances of Standardization?

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

Michaël Girardin (Université du Littoral)

The Right Measure of Overtaxation in the Roman Empire

Fenfang Dong (CUNY)

Imprecision, Institutional Failure, and Power in Exchange: Weights and Coinage from Naukratis

12:30–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–17:30 Panel 3 Thinking (Im)precision

Matthieu Delmeulle (UCLouvain)

Voluntary Imprecision of Mass Units: the “Schrödinger's Razor” Hypothesis

Richard Marshall (Newcastle University)

(Im)precision in Roman Calculation: What's a Half Here or There?

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

Andreas Prasinos (University of Glasgow)

The Diagonal and the Mean: Mathematics, Measure, and the Limits of Order in Classical Antiquity

Thomas Kelly (University of Cambridge)

Guessing at the Grid: Permissive Imprecision in the Map Projections of Ptolemy's *Geographical Guide*

Thursday, September 10

9:00–12:30 Panel 4 Imprecise Writing

Sina Dell'Anno (University of Vienna / Basel)

Measured Deviation: Paraphrase as Wilful Imprecision in Quintilian and Phaedrus

Moritz Kuhn (University of Cologne)

L'imprécision volontaire ou forme littéraire? Le cas de la Vie d'Augustin de Possidius de Calame

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

Peter Kotuiga (University of South Florida)

Ἀμετροπής by What Measure? Homeric Thersites and Hexametrical Rhetoric

Final Discussion and Closing Remarks