

Despite the assertions about simplicity by the founding fathers of the Carthusian Order, charterhouses readily displayed images and works of art, especially during the late Middle Ages and Early Modernity.

This international conference explores innovative lines of research on image-based meditative and devotional practices as well as experiences of art and images in the charterhouse, discourses on images by Carthusian authors, material and visual cultures of Carthusian monasteries, and comparative approaches to Carthusian art, opening up new avenues for understanding the role of works of art and images in Carthusian monasteries (c. 1350- 1700).

The conference will take place in KartHuis, the former charterhouse of Leuven, on 15-17 May 2025 and will be held in the context of the 600th birthday celebration of the universities of Louvain-la-Neuve and Leuven.

Organized with the kind support of the Diocese of Hasselt, the Abbey of Westvleteren, and the Diocese of Bruges.

CARTHUSIANS AND IMAGES.

New Perspectives on Religious Art and Devotional Culture in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Charterhouse



International Conference

**Leuven, KartHuis
(Tervuursevest 242c)
Belgium
15-17 May 2025**



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THURSDAY MAY 15

9.00 - 9.30 Welcome

9.30 - 10.00 Introduction by **Ingrid Falque**

SESSION 1 - CARTHUSIANS AND ART: DISCOURSES AND MATERIAL CULTURE

10.00 - 10.20 **Thor-Oona Pignarre-Altmarkt** (UCLouvain)

Carthusian Discourses on Images: A Comparison between Dionysius, Blomevenna, and Lanspergius

10.20 - 10.40 **Stephen Molvarec SJ** (Boston College)

The Charterhouse of Vauvert, Material Culture, and Eustache Le Sueur's Images of Carthusian Life

10.40 - 11.00 Discussion

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee break

SESSION 2 - IMAGES AND CARTHUSIAN IDENTITY

11.20 - 11.40 **Tonino Ceravolo** (Deputazione di Storia Patria per la Calabria)

The Carthusian Identity in the Engravings between the 16th and 17th Centuries

11.40 - 12.00 **Romeo Pio Cristofori** (Civic Museums of Ferrara), with **Elisabetta Lopresti & Giuliana Marcolini**

The "Golden Century" of Carthusian Art in the Domus Sancti Christophori prope Ferrariam: Priors and Painters ad maiorem Ordinis Cartusienis gloriam in the 17th Century

12.00 - 12.20 Discussion

Lunch break

SESSION 3 - CARVED IMAGES FOR CARTHUSIAN CHURCHES

14.00 - 14.20 **Marcello Angheben** (Université de Poitiers)

Entre spiritualité cartusienne et programme politique : le retable de la chartreuse de Miraflores

14.20 - 14.40 **Irene Graziani** (Università di Bologna)

'Wooden Prayers': Biagio de Marchi and the Choir Stalls of the Certosa di San Girolamo in Bologna

14.40 - 15.00 Discussion

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break

SESSION 4 - CARTHUSIAN IMAGES FOR COMMUNAL USE

15.15 - 15.35 **Cécile Beuzelin** (Université Paul-Valéry-Montpellier 3)

Le cycle de la Passion du Christ pour le grand cloître de la Chartreuse de Galluzzo (1523-1527) : une invention de Jacopo Pontormo ?

15.35 - 15.55 **Nicolas Sarzeaud** (Villa Médicis)

Vénérer la contrefaçon : un culte à copie du saint Suaire dans la chartreuse de Cologne sous le prieurat de Pierre Blomevenna

15.55 - 16.15 **Giovanni Malpelo** (Certosa di Farneta)

The Frescoes by Stefano Cassiani in the Vault of the Church of the Certosa di Farneta (Lucca): The Theological Reasons for an Iconographic Choice

16.15 - 16.45 Discussion

FRIDAY MAY 16

SESSION 5 - CARTHUSIAN IMAGES FOR MEDITATION AND DEVOTION

9.40 - 10.00 **Zuzana Bolerazká** (Charles University)
Hortus conclusus and the Carthusian Devotion

10.00 - 10.20 **Harald Goder**
The Carthusians as Manufacturers and Commissioners of Art Objects: Three Examples from Jülich, Dülmen and Cologne

10.20 - 10.50 Discussion

10.50 - 11.10 Coffee break

SESSION 6 - DIDACTIC AND MEDITATIVE IMAGES IN THE CHARTERHOUSE

11.10 - 11.30 **Mitchell Merback** (John Hopkins University)
Christ-Wisdom Among the Carthusians

11.30 - 11.50 **Sarah Borges** (EHESS)

Des roses et du sang : le Rosaire du MS Egerton 1821 de la British Library

11.50 - 12.20 Discussion

Lunch break

SESSION 7 - IMAGES AND CARTUSIANS
NUNS

14.00 - 14.20 **Sergi Sancho Fibla**
(Université Clermont Auvergne)
Visual Culture at the Nunnery. Medieval and Early Modern Carthusian Nuns and their Devotional Images

14.20 - 14.40 **Thomas Jérôme**
Etre et s'imaginer : la question de l'identité des moniales chartreuses à travers les sources scripturaires, artistiques et archéologiques

14.40 - 15.00 Discussion

15.00 - 15.20 Coffee break

Visit to Alamire Foundation/Park Abbey

15.30 Departure by bus at KartHuis

16.00 - 17.00 Guided visit of the Alamire Foundation/Park Abbey

17.00 - 17.15 Short break

SESSION 8 - THE LEUVEN CHARTERHOUSE: SHORT SESSIONS ON HISTORY, BOOKS, LITURGY AND ART

(these short sessions will be held at the Mariapoort of the Park Abbey)

17.15 - 17.30 **Tom Gaens** (UAntwerpen)
The Foundation of the Charterhouse of Leuven and Its Relations with the University

17.30 - 17.45 **Ingrid Falque**
(FNRS-UCLouvain)
The Stained-Glass Windows of the Great Cloister of the Leuven Charterhouse: Memoria and Spiritual Edification

17.45 - 18.00 **Pieter Mannaerts**
(Alamire Foundation)
An Illuminated Carthusian Gradual from Leuven (1506)

18.00 - 18.15 **Joseph Bernaer**
A Lectern Bible Commissioned by the Carthusians

18.15 - 18.30 **Tom Gaens** (UAntwerpen)
An Illustrated Meditation on the Lord's Passion, Printed for the Carthusians of Leuven

18.30 - 19.00 Discussion

19.00 Conference diner at De Abdijmolen (afterwards return to Leuven by bus)

Saturday May 17

SESSION 9 - COMPARATIVE APPROACHES BETWEEN THE CARTHUSIAN AND MENDICANT ORDERS

9.30 - 9.50 **Claire Bourguignon**
(Université Clermont Auvergne)
Art, Culture and Devotion. A Comparative Approach Between the Carthusian and the Mendicant Orders (13th-16th Centuries)

9.50 - 10.10 **Valentina Baradel & Davide Tramarin** (Università degli Studi di Padova)
Contrasting Worlds or Shared Visions? Carthusians, Dominicans, and the Use of Images in Late Medieval Devotional Practices

10.10 - 10.30 **Anne-Laure Imbert**
(Université Paris I-Sorbonne)
Les chartreux et sainte Catherine de Sienne

10.30 - 11.00 Discussion

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee break

SESSION 10 - THE SPIRITUAL, THE CURIOUS, AND THE PROFANE IN CARTHUSIAN ART

11.20 - 11.40 **Clara Lieutaghi**
(EHESS)

Trompe-l'œil en Chartreuse, un corpus à décrire ? Le cas du Chevalet du peintre (1686) à la Chartreuse de Villeneuve-lès-Avignon

11.40 - 12.00 **Mija Oter Gorenčič**
(Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts)
Artworks as Witnesses of Carthusian Perfection, Devotion, (Self-) Representation and Pleasure

12.00 - 12.20 Discussion

12.20 - 12.45 Conclusions by **Ingrid Falque** and **Reindert Falkenburg**