

Across cultures and epochs, humans have always surrounded themselves with curtains. For Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and the Middle Ages, explanatory approaches have found that curtains functioned as a means of staging esteemed persons or venerated objects and of defining transitions between different spheres such as life and death, ruler and ruled or human and divine. Curtains also hide; they activate the viewer's imagination and evoke the unattainable desire to look behind the veil.

Pliny the Elder exemplified this fascination inherent to curtains through his narrative on a famous competition between two artists. The painter Zeuxis tries to open the painted curtain of his competitor Parrhasius. In this anecdote, the deception is not only achieved through the realistic painted imitation of the textile, but it also lies in the longing to open it and to see what could possibly be hidden behind it. The mere sight and perception of the curtain is thus connected with the need to reveal the unknown, and the fascination with the hidden.

The purpose of this workshop is to examine curtains as well as veils and their staging functions from a wide variety of perspectives in an interdisciplinary manner, spanning epochs and cultural areas. Through the combination of iconographic evidence, written sources, and archaeological remains, light can be shed on the respective cultural-historical backgrounds in connection with curtains. Therefore, the various sessions will explore how curtains function in profane, sepulchral, imperial, and religious contexts. Scholars from various disciplines will try to get a glimpse behind the curtain and try to reveal some of these textiles' secrets.

Organized by

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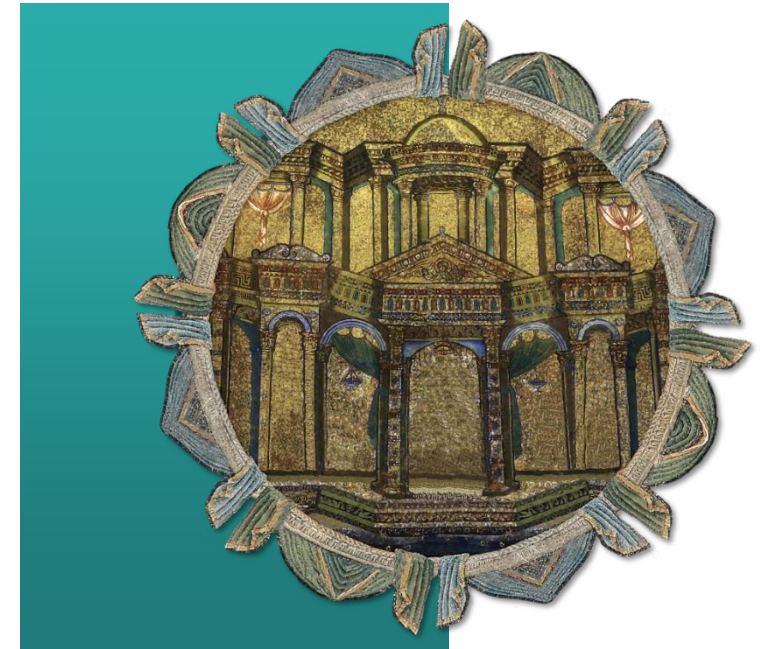


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Beyond the Veil

Revealing the Mystery of Curtains

Workshop
May 19–20, 2022



Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Institute for Byzantine Studies, Byzantine Art History and Modern Greek Studies

Programme

Thursday, May 19, 2022

14.00 Welcome

14.30 **Eva Christof**

„Parapetasmata“ and „vela“: Ways of Use and of Meaning from the Late Hellenism throughout the Roman Imperial Period

15.30 Coffee Break

16.00 **Friederike Kranig**

Sounds from Beyond: Curtains as Elements of Acoustic Framing

17.00 **Béatrice Chevallier-Caseau**

Sound and Textiles: The Importance of Curtain

18.00 Break

19.15 **Tina Bawden**

Curtains in the Context of Thresholds and Liminal Spaces in Medieval Art

Public Lecture in cooperation with
Spätantike Archäologie und
Byzantinische Kunstgeschichte e.V.
Location: LMU

Friday, May 20, 2022

9.00 **Corinna Mairhanser**

When the Curtain Rises:
Sacred Images and the Staging of Gaze

10.00 **Matko Matija Marušić**

Curtain Frames for the *imagines antiquae* and the Afterlife of Medieval Ritual of (Un)Veiling

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 **Katarzyna Maria Lubos**

Late Antique Resist-Dyed Fabrics and their Function as Hangings and Curtains

12.30 Lunch Break

14.00 **Sabrina Schmid**

Curtains in Medieval Books: Staging, Protecting, or Decorating?

15.00 **Priscilla Pfannmüller**

Insideout – between War and Paradise: The Great Vizir's Tent

16.00 Concluding Remarks

Locations



Workshop



**Staatliches Museum
Ägyptischer Kunst**
Conference Room

Gabelsbergerstraße 35
80333 München

Public Lecture

Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 19.00



**Ludwig-Maximilians-
Universität München**
Historicum, Room K001

Schellingstrasse 12
80799 München