

Panel: “On the religious body: representations and drifts in the contemporary arts and literature”

The representation of the divine and of religious experience as an experience that affects the body has constituted, in all times and cultures, fertile ground for artistic practice, namely visual and literary, confronting it not only with technical and aesthetic problems and with the dilemmas of the unrepresentable, but also placing it in relation to the sphere of power and the political and ideological manipulation of images or opening it to a philosophical and anthropological reflection that equates the ways of thinking identities in direct articulation with the production of the figura, taken in its Christian sense of 'work of displacement'.

Contemporary art and literature, in particular, absorbing several centuries of this figurative tradition, often adopt its themes, forms, and techniques, emptying them of religious content and converting them into expedients for the artistic consideration whether of a body-flesh, deglorified and without transcendence; Or, sometimes, of a plastic body, understood outside the regime of the "gift" and made the target of the transformative actions of a subject who is its exclusive author; Or still in pure self-referential devices that refer to the text or to the image itself understood now as the unique body and unique event.

In this thematic panel, a set of reflections will be gathered on the different literary and artistic re-readings of the religious body in the context of the current decline of western metaphysical culture, towards ontologies of 'weakening' that imply profound reconfigurations of ethical, aesthetic, cultural and political paradigms, yet proposing alternative meanings of corporality and religiosity.

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