

## Organizer

Thomas Cummins (Harvard University)

This conference brings together scholars from different disciplines to analyze the economic and artistic values of gold and their place in the interconnected world of Early Modern European, African, Asian and American cultures. Although gold is recognized as a “beguiling” universal equivalent as recently discussed by Zorach and Phillips (2016), the values of gold are also historically specific. The early modern world represents one of gold’s crucial transformative moments when its various meanings and roles were reaffirmed and/or transformed. The focus of the conference will be on articulating specific instances of the shifting uses, roles, and values of gold within the artistic, economic and symbolic arenas of world cultures. Changes as well as continuities in local cultures are in part conditioned by new global contacts that are sustained by gold’s importance within imperial ambitions and mercantile capitalism.



This conference is open to the public with no charge

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Villa I Tatti

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Front Cover image: Orazio Gentileschi, *Danaë (detail)*, c. 1621  
Back Cover image: Inca *Gold Llama*, c. 1400 - 1550

Inside image: *Textile*, c. 1370 - 1430, Venice  
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# GOLD

THE UNIVERSAL EQUIVALENT OF GLOBAL  
DREAMS, DESIRES, ARTS, AND VALUES  
IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY

 Villa I Tatti  
The Harvard University Center  
for Italian Renaissance Studies



AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

9 - 10 JUNE 2016

VILLA I TATTI, FLORENCE



THURSDAY, 9 JUNE 2016

**Introductory Remarks**

- 09.45 **Alina Payne** (Director, Villa I Tatti)  
**Thomas Cummins** (Harvard University)

**Gold in the Arts of Renaissance Italy**

Chair: **Estelle Lingo** (Villa I Tatti, University of Washington)

- 10.00 **Carlo Taviani** (Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma)  
*The Genoese and Gold During the Renaissance*

- 10.30 **Anne Dunlop** (University of Melbourne)  
*On Gold and Goldbacks*

- 11.00 *Coffee*

- 11.30 **Cecilia Frosinini** (Opificio delle Pietre Dure)  
*The Gold Experience in Italian Artisan Tradition between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance in Florence*

- 12.00 **Discussion**

- 13.00 *Buffet lunch*

**The Circulation of Gold in the Arts of the World**

Chair: **Hannah Baader** (Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz)

- 14.30 **Craig Clunas** (Oxford University)  
*Gold: a Mongol Legacy in Ming China?*

- 15.00 **Suzanne Preston Blier** (Harvard University)  
*Gold! Art and the African Trade*

- 15.30 **Kris Lane** (Tulane University)  
*In the Shadow of Silver: The Gold of New Granada under the Habsburgs*

- 16.00 **Discussion**



FRIDAY, 10 JUNE 2016

**The Magic and Science of Gold**

Chair: **Paola D'Agostino** (Museo Nazionale del Bargello)

- 10.00 **Chiara Crisciani** (Università degli studi di Pavia)  
*Oro potabile tra alchimia e medicina (secoli XIII-XV)*

- 10.30 **Noam Andrews** (Harvard University)  
*"Mysterium Cosmographicum": Johannes Kepler's Gold Rush*

- 11.00 *Coffee*

- 11.30 **Yukio Lippit** (Harvard University)  
*The Emergence of the Gold Screen in 16th/17th Century Japan*

- 12.00 **Discussion**

- 13.00 *Buffet lunch*

**The Geo-Religious Politics of Gold in Spain and the World**

Chair: **Carl Strehlke** (Philadelphia Museum of Art)

- 14.30 **Abigail Balbale** (Bard Graduate Center)  
*Gold, Islam, and the Spanish "Reconquista"*

- 15.00 **Maria Lumbreras** (Johns Hopkins University)  
*Luminous Relics: Material Mimesis in the Early Modern Iberian World*

- 15.30 **Thomas Cummins** (Harvard University)  
*"By means of Gold even the doors of paradise can be opened to the soul:" God's golden mines in America and what they wrought in Early Modern Images and Texts*

- 16.00 **Discussion**