



The Art of the Network: Visualising Social Relationships, 1400-1600



Friday 28 April 2017
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Organised by

Alexander Röstel: The Courtauld Institute of Art

Alexander Noelle: The Courtauld Institute of Art

In recent years, the analysis of social networks has generated a fruitful field of scholarly enquiry. Research addressing the dynamics that govern personal relationships within and without communities of various kinds has permeated through historical, anthropological, and sociological studies. These investigations have traced the ways in which societies

structured according to gender, family bonds, and neighbourhood ties as well as political, professional, and religious associations regulated social interaction. However, the role of art and architecture in cultivating these interpersonal relationships has not been explored comprehensively. Even art historical approaches have frequently given preference to textual rather than visual evidence in elucidating these social networks.

This conference seeks to shed light on the ways in which social networks have been represented visually. Such an approach has great potential to deepen the discussion surrounding the commission, production, and reception of art and architecture between 1400 and 1600. We invite studies that bring into dialogue social connections on the one hand and visual manifestations on the other. Preference will be given to papers that present unpublished material while engaging with methodological frameworks and/or historiographical perspectives.

Topics might include but are not limited to:

- how artistic networks affect the construction of identities
- the mobility of art and artists within networks
- whether formal, iconographic and/or stylistic features denote adherence to a community
- the identification of specific individuals in works of art
- how issues of display influence social bonds
- the employment of personal, familial, political, ecclesiastical or professional devices

Proposals of no more than 350 words should be submitted together with a short CV to Alexander Röstel (alexander.rostel@courtauld.ac.uk) and Alexander Noelle (alexander.noelle@courtauld.ac.uk) by **31 December 2016**. Successful candidates will be notified in mid-January. Papers should not exceed 20 minutes in length. Costs for travel and accommodation cannot be covered but partial funding might become available and catering will be provided for all speakers.

<http://courtauld.ac.uk/event/the-art-of-the-network>