

CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS FOR PUBLICATION

Picturing Paradise in 19th Century British and American Art: Past, Lost, Regained
A Special Issue of *Religion and the Arts* edited by Rachel Smith and James Romaine

PROPOSALS DUE: February 1, 2017

The Association of Scholars of Christianity in the History of Art (ASCHA) and *Religion and the Arts* seek proposals for essays of new scholarship on the theme of “paradise” in 19th Century British and American Art. Accepted essays will join essays developed from papers presented at the February 2, 2016 ASCHA symposium: *Picturing Paradise in 19th Century British and American Art: Past, Lost, Regained*.

Paradise is a persistent and varied theme in 19th century American and British art. It is often visualized through local, exotic, and even imagined landscapes, gardens, and plants. Drawing from the Bible’s first and last chapters (Genesis and Revelation, respectively), as well as authors such as Dante and Milton, artists interpreted “paradise” in different contexts. Some described the paradise of the past (the Garden of Eden), the present (the paradise “lost” after the Fall), or the paradise to be “regained” in the future (as the destination of the blessed soul). During a period of increasing industrialization and urbanization, foliated and landscape imagery found particular resonance as a means of drawing on a past and/or projecting a future paradise to address present concerns as various societies, groups, and individuals explored spiritual and social perfection.

While the aspiration for paradise is common among a host of world religions, it is particularly prevalent in Christianity and in images influenced by that faith. Although the sublime and pastoral are often contrasted, both of these orientations are potential paths to paradise. Bridging such diverse movements as the Hudson River School and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, this use of garden imagery in the 19th century expresses a hope for personal and collective harmony.

Proposals of no more than 300 words should be submitted, with a cover letter and 2 page C.V. by February 1, 2017 to Dr. Rachel Hostetter Smith rsmith@taylor.edu and Dr. James Romaine drjamesromaine@gmail.com. Authors will be notified by mid-February. Completed essays should be in the range of 5000-6000 words and are due May 1, 2017. Authors are responsible for securing all rights and reproductions for images for their essays and to cover any costs that entails. For more information about *Religion and the Arts* see <http://www.bc.edu/publications/relarts/issues.html> .