MAKING WORLDS: 
ART, MATERIALITY, AND EARLY MODERN GLOBALIZATION

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA 
Symposium - April 28-29, 2017

The premise of the Making Worlds symposium is that the confrontation between materiality and mobility during the early modern period gave rise to new, often unexpected, forms of creativity. The research project of which it is a part (http://www.makingworlds.net) aims to shift the focus from regional considerations and area studies to investigate how experimentation with visual and material forms emerged across and between worlds, broadly construed, and ways in which imagining, digesting and translating worlds have been central to their making and remaking. We use the fraught term early modern globalization advisedly to signal the historical and technological changes c. 1450-1650 that generated a new world view. With materiality, we underline the materials, making, and agency of images, motifs, and artifacts in order to foreground the critical creative and imaginative processes involved in making worlds.

This CFP therefore seeks papers that travel in new directions or follow unexpected paths. We are interested in studies that trace how forms and ideas migrated between spaces and from one medium into another, or how different modes of representation interfered with each other. In what ways were wandering, navigating, disorientation, temporality, and conversion manifested in visual and material forms? In what ways did pasts and futures confront each other?

Please send a proposal of 300 words (for a 30-minute paper) and a brief CV to the organizers by June 30, 2016.

Bronwen Wilson, Department of Art History, UCLA 
bwilson@humnet.ucla.edu

Angela Vanhaelen, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University 
angela.vanhaelen@mcgill.ca

Funds are available for travel and accommodation.

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