

Despite the assertions about simplicity by the founding fathers of the Carthusian Order, charterhouses readily displayed images and works of art, especially during the late Middle Ages and Early Modernity.

This international conference explores innovative lines of research on image-based meditative and devotional practices as well as experiences of art and images in the charterhouse, discourses on images by Carthusian authors, material and visual cultures of Carthusian monasteries, and comparative approaches to Carthusian art, opening up new avenues for understanding the role of works of art and images in Carthusian monasteries (c. 1350- 1700).

The conference will take place in KartHuis, the former charterhouse of Leuven, on 15-17 May 2025 and will be held in the context of the 600<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the universities of Louvain-la-Neuve and Leuven.

Organized with the kind support of the Diocese of Hasselt, the Abbey of Westvleteren, and the Diocese of Bruges.

# CARTHUSIANS AND IMAGES.

New Perspectives on Religious Art and Devotional Culture in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Charterhouse



## International Conference

**Leuven, KartHuis  
(Tervuursevest 242c)  
Belgium  
15-17 May 2025**



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**Organizers:**  
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## THURSDAY MAY 15

9.00 - 9.30 Welcome

9.30 - 10.00 Introduction by **Ingrid Falque**

### SESSION 1 - CARTHUSIANS AND ART: DISCOURSES AND MATERIAL CULTURE

10.00 - 10.20 **Thor-Oona Pignarre-Altmarkt** (UCLouvain)

*Carthusian Discourses on Images: A Comparison between Dionysius, Blomevenna, and Lanspergius*

10.20 - 10.40 **Stephen Molvarec SJ** (Boston College)

*The Charterhouse of Vauvert, Material Culture, and Eustache Le Sueur's Images of Carthusian Life*

10.40 - 11.00 Discussion

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee break

### SESSION 2 - IMAGES AND CARTHUSIAN IDENTITY

11.20 - 11.40 **Tonino Ceravolo** (Deputazione di Storia Patria per la Calabria)

*The Carthusian Identity in the Engravings between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries*

11.40 - 12.00 **Romeo Pio Cristofori** (Civic Museums of Ferrara), with **Elisabetta Lopresti & Giuliana Marcolini**

*The "Golden Century" of Carthusian Art in the Domus Sancti Christophori prope Ferrariam: Priors and Painters ad maiorem Ordinis Cartusienis gloriam in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

12.00 - 12.20 Discussion

Lunch break

### SESSION 3 - CARVED IMAGES FOR CARTHUSIAN CHURCHES

14.00 - 14.20 **Marcello Angheben** (Université de Poitiers)

*Entre spiritualité cartusienne et programme politique : le retable de la chartreuse de Miraflores*

14.20 - 14.40 **Irene Graziani** (Università di Bologna)

*'Wooden Prayers': Biagio de Marchi and the Choir Stalls of the Certosa di San Girolamo in Bologna*

14.40 - 15.00 Discussion

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break

### SESSION 4 - CARTHUSIAN IMAGES FOR COMMUNAL USE

15.15 - 15.35 **Cécile Beuzelin** (Université Paul-Valéry-Montpellier 3)

*Le cycle de la Passion du Christ pour le grand cloître de la Chartreuse de Galluzzo (1523-1527) : une invention de Jacopo Pontormo ?*

15.35 - 15.55 **Nicolas Sarzeaud** (Villa Médicis)

*Vénérer la contrefaçon : un culte à copie du saint Suaire dans la chartreuse de Cologne sous le prieurat de Pierre Blomevenna*

15.55 - 16.15 **Giovanni Malpelo** (Certosa di Farneta)

*The Frescoes by Stefano Cassiani in the Vault of the Church of the Certosa di Farneta (Lucca): The Theological Reasons for an Iconographic Choice*

16.15 - 16.45 Discussion

## FRIDAY MAY 16

### SESSION 5 - CARTHUSIAN IMAGES FOR MEDITATION AND DEVOTION

9.40 - 10.00 **Zuzana Bolerazká** (Charles University)  
*Hortus conclusus and the Carthusian Devotion*

10.00 - 10.20 **Harald Goder**  
*The Carthusians as Manufacturers and Commissioners of Art Objects: Three Examples from Jülich, Dülmen and Cologne*

10.20 - 10.50 Discussion

10.50 - 11.10 Coffee break

### SESSION 6 - DIDACTIC AND MEDITATIVE IMAGES IN THE CHARTERHOUSE

11.10 - 11.30 **Mitchell Merback** (John Hopkins University)  
*Christ-Wisdom Among the Carthusians*

11.30 - 11.50 **Sarah Borges** (EHESS)

*Des roses et du sang : le Rosaire du MS Egerton 1821 de la British Library*

11.50 - 12.20 Discussion

Lunch break

SESSION 7 - IMAGES AND CARTUSIANS  
NUNS

14.00 - 14.20 **Sergi Sancho Fibla**  
(Université Clermont Auvergne)  
*Visual Culture at the Nunnery. Medieval and Early Modern Carthusian Nuns and their Devotional Images*

14.20 - 14.40 **Thomas Jérôme**  
*Etre et s'imaginer : la question de l'identité des moniales chartreuses à travers les sources scripturaires, artistiques et archéologiques*

14.40 - 15.00 Discussion

15.00 - 15.20 Coffee break

Visit to Alamire Foundation/Park Abbey

15.30 Departure by bus at KartHuis

16.00 - 17.00 Guided visit of the Alamire Foundation/Park Abbey

17.00 - 17.15 Short break

SESSION 8 - THE LEUVEN CHARTERHOUSE: SHORT SESSIONS ON HISTORY, BOOKS, LITURGY AND ART

(these short sessions will be held at the Mariapoort of the Park Abbey)

17.15 - 17.30 **Tom Gaens** (UAntwerpen)  
*The Foundation of the Charterhouse of Leuven and Its Relations with the University*

17.30 - 17.45 **Ingrid Falque**  
(FNRS-UCLouvain)  
*The Stained-Glass Windows of the Great Cloister of the Leuven Charterhouse: Memoria and Spiritual Edification*

17.45 - 18.00 **Pieter Mannaerts**  
(Alamire Foundation)  
*An Illuminated Carthusian Gradual from Leuven (1506)*

18.00 - 18.15 **Joseph Bernaer**  
*A Lectern Bible Commissioned by the Carthusians*

18.15 - 18.30 **Tom Gaens** (UAntwerpen)  
*An Illustrated Meditation on the Lord's Passion, Printed for the Carthusians of Leuven*

18.30 - 19.00 Discussion

19.00 Conference diner at De Abdijmolen (afterwards return to Leuven by bus)

## Saturday May 17

SESSION 9 - COMPARATIVE APPROACHES BETWEEN THE CARTHUSIAN AND MENDICANT ORDERS

9.30 - 9.50 **Claire Bourguignon**  
(Université Clermont Auvergne)  
*Art, Culture and Devotion. A Comparative Approach Between the Carthusian and the Mendicant Orders (13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*

9.50 - 10.10 **Valentina Baradel & Davide Tramarin** (Università degli Studi di Padova)  
*Contrasting Worlds or Shared Visions? Carthusians, Dominicans, and the Use of Images in Late Medieval Devotional Practices*

10.10 - 10.30 **Anne-Laure Imbert**  
(Université Paris I-Sorbonne)  
*Les chartreux et sainte Catherine de Sienne*

10.30 - 11.00 Discussion

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee break

SESSION 10 - THE SPIRITUAL, THE CURIOUS, AND THE PROFANE IN CARTHUSIAN ART

11.20 - 11.40 **Clara Lieutaghi**  
(EHESS)  
*Trompe-l'œil en Chartreuse, un corpus à décrire ? Le cas du Chevalet du peintre (1686) à la Chartreuse de Villeneuve-lès-Avignon*

11.40 - 12.00 **Mija Oter Gorenčič**  
(Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts)  
*Artworks as Witnesses of Carthusian Perfection, Devotion, (Self-) Representation and Pleasure*

12.00 - 12.20 Discussion

12.20 - 12.45 Conclusions by **Ingrid Falque** and **Reindert Falkenburg**