

Quarter/Year

Course Number

Day/Time

Instructor

Winter 2021

ART-HIST 420

W 2-5

Normore

Course Title

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Decolonizing the Medieval Wing



This course considers the past and future of European medieval collections in light of recent critical museology and curatorial practice. Through thematic discussions and selected case studies, we will examine the longer history of the 'medieval wing' in encyclopedic museums and dedicated museums of medieval art alongside more recent debates concerning the presentation of the art and artifacts of Indigenous and other marginalized groups in museum contexts. We will interrogate some of the modern uses of the medieval as a category and European medieval art as materials in the formation of national, imperial and White racial identities in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will also consider the future of medieval collections and their display, particularly in light of the current calls for a 'global medieval'. Our goal will be to find a path forward that resists the supposed universalism and neutrality of the

presentation of the European past and the colonial and neocolonial projects in which medieval art has been enmeshed. To this end, for their final project students may write a traditional research paper or offer a proposal for the reinstallation of a section of a current medieval collection.

Photo Reference: Albert Lenoir, *Hôtel de Cluny, projet d'aménagement de la chambre des abbés de Cluny*, aquarelle, 1843-1844, bibliothèque de l'INHA, OA 716 (2, 75)

Required Textbooks

Readings on Canvas.

Assessments

Weekly response papers, class participation, research presentation, final research paper (15-20 pp) or reinstallation proposal.

This course meets synchronously online.