

Call for Papers:

Women and the Arts

In the Long Eighteenth Century

Friday 8th March 2019

The University of Sheffield, Humanities Research Institute

Keynote speaker: Dr Claudine van Hensbergen, Northumbria University

In Linda Nochlin's highly influential essay 'Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?' (1971) she concludes that all art making is 'mediated and determined by specific and definable social institutions', citing art academies, systems of patronage and mythologies of male artistic genius as examples of socially-constructed limitations imposed upon women. As 2019 marks the 250th anniversary of the inaugural Royal Academy exhibition, this one-day conference, scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day, aims to reappraise the role of women in the arts during the long eighteenth century. By bringing together those specialising in Art History, Literature, Theatre, Music and Gender Studies to share their research, we aim to promote interdisciplinary thought and foster a network of researchers working on inter-connected topics. We particularly invite papers on the intersection between literature and the arts in order to explore the ways in which the arts are represented in eighteenth-century texts, but would welcome contributions from any discipline connected to the theme. As a student-led conference we encourage postgraduate students and early career researchers to submit an abstract.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- **Women and the Royal Academy**
- **Women patrons and collectors**
- **The hierarchy of the arts/the division between arts and crafts**
- **Arts education as promoted in conduct material/drawing manuals**
- **Bluestockings, salons and societies**
- **The sister arts relationship between poetry, music and painting**
- **The influence of the Classical world/the Grand Tour**
- **Restrictions or challenges to women's involvement in the arts**
- **The artistic heroine in literature, including art in the Gothic novel**
- **Literary or visual representations of women artists/performers**
- **Performance and display**

We invite abstracts of up to 250 words for 20 minute papers, and would also welcome proposals for pre-formed panels as well as ideas for alternative format sessions. Please submit your abstract, plus a short biographical note to womenandartconference@gmail.com by 16th November 2018.

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