

1-13-2000

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Recommended Citation

"Panelists Discuss Art and Religion in the Aftermath of Brooklyn Exhibit of Controversial Mary Portrait" (2000). *News Releases*. 8849. https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8849

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Jan. 13, 2000
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NEWS RELEASE

PANELISTS DISCUSS ART AND RELIGION IN THE AFTERMATH OF BROOKLYN EXHIBIT OF CONTROVERSIAL MARY PORTRAIT

DAYTON, Ohio — A panel of experts will discuss “Depicting Mary, Debating Art: Religion, Art and the Brooklyn Museum’s ‘Sensation’ Exhibit” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center at the University of Dayton.

Admission is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the discussion.

Panelists will include the Rev. Johann G. Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute at UD; Joel A. Whitaker, UD assistant professor of visual arts; Una M. Cadegan, associate professor of history at UD; Anthony B. Smith, assistant professor of religious studies at UD; and Dominique H. Vasseur, deputy director of the Springfield Museum of Art.

They will examine issues of art, religion, censorship and anti-Catholicism that were generated by the Brooklyn Museum’s recent “Sensation” exhibit. The art show spawned intense cultural commentary and political debate regarding Chris Ofili’s portrait “The Holy Virgin Mary,” which contained elephant dung and images of genitalia. Panelists will talk about the significance of the art and the museum show as well as the controversy they provoked from historical, artistic, cultural and religious perspectives.

Audience members will be invited to participate in the discussion.

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