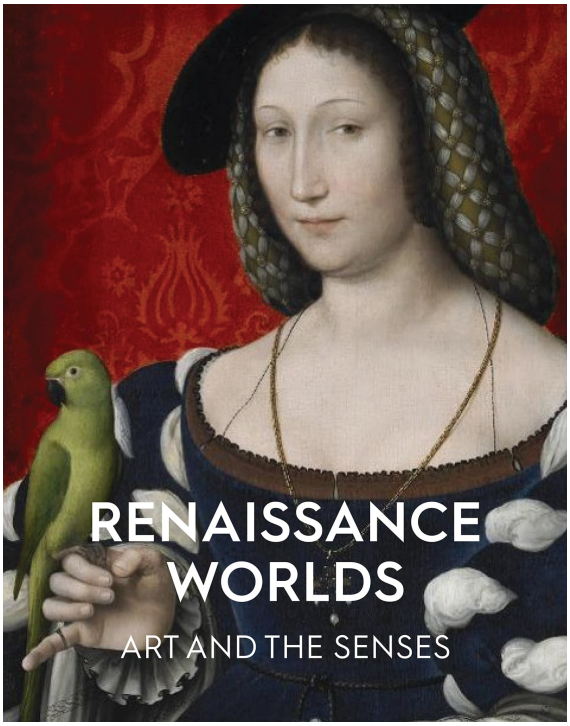
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Renaissance Worlds

Art & The Senses

Geraldine Johnson

Leah Clark

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- A journey through the Renaissance World, showcasing the sights, sounds and smells that were experienced, and the global trade that they created
- Published to accompany a major exhibition to be held at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, from June to October 2027

While the Renaissance is primarily associated with the development of linear perspective and the rediscovery of the antique within European contexts, it was also a period of global multi-sensory exchanges: perfumes and spices were traded over land and by sea, while chocolate, gold, silver, cochineal, ivory, and lapis lazuli were extracted from Africa, Asia, and the Americas for consumption and transformation into a multitude of objects – with both productive and destructive results. ***Renaissance Wonders: Art & The Senses***, which focuses on the 'long' Renaissance (c.1450-c. 1650), highlights global connections within Europe and between Europe and other cultures in order to investigate how new navigational technologies and the ambitions of exploration led to an exponential growth in the exchange of works of art and other crafted artefacts, as well as of materials, technologies, skills, and ideas.

Geraldine A. Johnson received a BA in Comparative Literature from Yale, an MA in Art History from Cambridge, and a PhD in History of Art from Harvard. She has been awarded a number of prestigious grants and fellowships, including from the Harvard Society of Fellows, Leverhulme Trust, Henry Moore Foundation, Fulbright Commission, Mellon Foundation, and Harvard's Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa i Tatti in Florence. In 2026, she is a Visiting Professor (Professeur Invitée) at the Sorbonne's Centre André Chastel (CNRS) in Paris. She has served four times as Head of Oxford's History of Art Department and is currently an Elected Member of the University's Governing Council. She has also been Associate Head of Oxford's Humanities Division and has held a number of senior positions at her Oxford college (Christ Church), including Senior Censor (Academic Head and Co-Deputy Head of College), Junior Censor (oversight of welfare), and Tutor for Admissions. She received a University Teaching Prize for her work in establishing Oxford's undergraduate degree in History of Art. **Leah Clark** is an Associate Professor in the History of Art and a Fellow of Kellogg College as well as Director of Studies in History of Art. Previously, she worked at the Open University where her roles included Head of Research and Chair of the MA in Art History. She holds a BA from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver,) an MA from the Courtauld Institute of Art (London) and a PhD from McGill University (Montreal).

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