

NUI Galway-Durham
Ekphrasis in its Contemporary and Ancient Contexts
Second Symposium: Durham 24-25 June 2022

Organizers: Peter Kelly (NUI Galway / Princeton) and Roy Gibson (Durham University)
Venue: Department of History, HS110, Durham University

Ekphrasis in contemporary literature is usually understood as a verbal description of a visual object, often a piece of art. In an ancient context, however it is often viewed as a rhetorical force that brings to life absent things as if they were vividly present before the eyes. Two symposia – one in Galway and one in Durham – bring together contemporary poets, leading researchers in ancient literature, and experts in modern British and Irish poetry to discuss how ancient ekphrasis relates to its modern counterpart, while building new pathways between the Academic and Arts sectors. This is the second event, taking place in Durham, which concentrates on academic approaches that seek to explore ways of realigning the ancient and modern use of ekphrasis.

Friday 24 June

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| 10.15 a.m. Peter Kelly (Galway / Princeton): | Welcome |
| 10.30 a.m. Jaś Elsner (Oxford): | The Virtualities of Ekphrasis [via Zoom] |
| 11.15 a.m. tea / coffee break | |
| 11.30 a.m. Peter Kelly (Galway / Princeton): | Envisaging Insight through Embodied Ekphrasis |
| 12.15 p.m. Edmund Thomas (Durham): | Ekphrasis and Creation |
| 1.00 p.m. lunch | |
| 2.30 p.m. Peter Heslin (Durham): | Irony and Ekphrasis: Statius, Martial and Novius Vindex |
| 3.15 p.m. Arianna Gullo (Newcastle): | Ekphrasis and Epigram in the Age of Justinian |
| 4.00 p.m. tea / coffee break | |
| 4.15 p.m. Ruth Webb (Lille): | TBC |
| 5.00 p.m. Richard Meek (Hull): | ‘The lively touch of sorrow’: ekphrasis, <i>enargeia</i> , and affect in early modern literature |

Saturday 25 June

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| 9.45 a.m. Barry Sheils (Durham): | One thing inside another: the institutions of modern ekphrasis and the problem of scale |
| 10.30 a.m. Tea / Coffee | |
| 10.45 a.m. Bridget Vincent (Aarhus IAS): | Moral complicity in modern and contemporary ekphrasis |
| 11.30 a.m. Adam Hanna (UC Cork): | Seamus Heaney: Ekphrasis, Memory, Uncertainty |
| 12.15 p.m. Peter Kelly: | Closing Remarks |