



Universität Hamburg
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FAKULTÄT
FÜR GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN



GEFÖRDERT IM RAHMEN DER EXZELLENZSTRATEGIE
VON BUND UND LÄNDERN.



REPRODUCING MIRACLES. ON THE MEDIAL REPRESENTATION OF MIRACLES IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

image: Cappella, Francesco: *Miracle of San Francesco de Paola*, 1750. Museo Diocesano, Cortona. Web Gallery of Arts: https://www.wga.hu/html_m/c/cappella/miracle.html.

The 17th century was pervaded by an aura of the miraculous. The affirmation of the cult of the saints by the Council of Trent was followed by a wave of hagiographic publications and miracle reports abound with supernatural events. The dissemination of miracles through texts, images, and other media enabled their perception outside the circle of direct witnesses. Moreover, against the background of the aesthetics of the marvelous – a central feature in early modern poetics – it was artistically appealing to represent miracles. The reproduction of the miraculous, though, was not without risk. Representations of miracles need to keep a right balance between the marvelous and the verisimilar. The conference aims to explore the dissemination of miracles in different literary genres and media (epic poetry, hagiography, theatre, painting). It will investigate how early modern media and arts captured the ephemeral and transcendental nature of miracles.

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