



Ludovico Geymonat

Planning the Apocalypse: Evidence from a Medieval Drawing

Some time, probably during the 13th century, Benedictine monks gathered together in the ancient abbey of Saint Peter in Salzburg, Austria, to draw what appears to be a detailed layout of a program to be painted in a chapel. It illustrates dramatic scenes from the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel. It seems that the program was never carried out. What remains of their plans is a large fragment of parchment covered in figures and scribbles. In this lecture, Geymonat attempts to give a first assessment of this unique drawing, exploring the relationship between text and images, its role in the devising and carrying out of a monumental program, its situation in the intellectual history of visual communication, and what it can tell us about the mechanics of medieval iconography.

Ludovico Geymonat is currently teaching in the Art History Program at UC Davis. He received his PhD from Princeton (2006) and has taught at the Columbia University and the University of Iowa. His current research focuses on the transmission of images and the design of monumental programs.

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