Early Modern Visual and Material Culture Lecture Series: Lodging Dwelling Painting: Place and the Placeless in Early Modern England

Taking as its focus a set of wall paintings in Pittleworth Manor, Hampshire, this talk investigates the concept of dwelling as it was understood and experienced in Renaissance England, particularly by those without a true dwelling-place. The anonymous paintings, dated 1580, represent the Biblical story of rich Dives and the beggar Lazarus. The painter gives access to the perspective of the placeless poor, who lack earthly lodging but aspire to heavenly dwelling. Meanwhile Pittleworth’s owner, a man secure in his own dwelling, was engaged in enabling imprisoned Catholics to turn their cells into places of dwelling.