

~Center for Medieval Studies Lecture~

“Breastfeeding Cain: Visualizing Eve’s Role in the Fall”



Jennifer Awes Freeman

University of St. Thomas

Thursday, November 30th ~ 4:00 pm Social Science

Abstract: Centuries before the motif of the Virgin Mary breastfeeding the infant Christ emerged in the twelfth century, an image of Eve nursing can be found in the sixth-century Ashburnham Pentateuch (Paris, BnF NAL 2334 f. 1v). The next such depiction does not reappear until the ninth century in a group of Carolingian Genesis frontispieces. This talk interrogates the negative portrayal of Eve as evidence of the Ashburnham Pentateuch’s influence on Carolingian manuscripts, and by extension addresses issues of the transmission of iconographies and gendered theology.

Biography: Jennifer Awes Freeman is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Theology department at the University of St. Thomas and a postdoctoral fellow at the Louisville Institute. She is currently working on the revision of her dissertation project entitled Erasing God: The Ashburnham Pentateuch in the Sixth and Ninth Centuries.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Early Modern History and the Department of Art History.

A reception will follow, open to faculty, graduate students, and friends of the Center for Medieval Studies.