

Ioanna Christoforaki

Date of Birth: 8 May 1967

Place of Birth: Rhodes, Greece

EDUCATION

1999-2000: City University, London: M.A. in Museum and Gallery Management

1992-1999: Oxford University, Merton College: D.Phil. in Byzantine Art and Archaeology

1990-1992: Oxford University, Lincoln College: M.Phil. in Byzantine Studies

1985-1989: University of Athens, Faculty of History and Archaeology (*summa cum laude*)

GRANT AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2016: The Fogliano/Lester Research Grant of the Italian Art Society

2015: Senior Scholar in Residence at CAARI (The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute)

2014: The Janet Arnold Award of the Society of Antiquaries of London

2013: Academic Visitor at the History of Art Department, University of Oxford

2013: The British School in Athens Centenary Award

2011: The CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Center) and Getty Research Exchange Fellowship Program for the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East

1995-99: The Lilian Voudouri Foundation Award

1994 & 1996: The Hellenic Foundation Travelling Fellowship

1993: The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation of New York

1993-95: The Merton College & The A.G. Leventis Foundation Senior Scholarship

1990-93: The Greek State Foundation for Scholarships

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

February 2004-present: Associate Research Fellow at the Research Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art of the Academy of Athens

October 2003-July 2013: Adjunct Faculty Member at the Open University of Greece

February 2004-July 2006: Adjunct Professor at the Athens Tour Guide College

May 2001-December 2003: Assistant Curator at the Greek Ministry of Culture, Department of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments

February-June 2003: Adjunct Lecturer at the Faculty of History and Archaeology of the University of Crete

2004-present: contributor to the bibliographical index of the journal *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*.

September 1998-June 1999: cataloguer of the Edgar Wind archive, first professor of Art History at the University of Oxford (research programme of the Bodleian Library).

January 1996-June 1998: research assistant to Martin Kemp, Professor of Art History at Oxford University. Duties included bibliographical research and editing of his articles and book, entitled *Behind the Picture. Art and Evidence in the Italian Renaissance* (London: Yale University Press, 1997).

March-April 1993: assistant curator for the exhibition *Trade and the State in the Early Byzantine Period*, held at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, on the occasion of the XXVII Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Open University of Greece (October 2017-2020)

Adjunct Professor for the postgraduate course “Cultural Policy and Management”

The Open University of Greece (October 2003-July 2013)

Adjunct Professor for the graduate course «Public and Private Life in Greece: From Antiquity to the Post-Byzantine Era».

The Athens Tour Guide College (February 2004-July 2006)

Professor of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art and Archaeology; duties included planning and teaching of the course; organizing and accompanying the students on various fieldtrips to Byzantine sites and monuments in Greece; setting their exam papers and supervising their final qualifying written assignments.

University of Crete, Faculty of History and Archaeology (February-June 2003)

Visiting Lecturer of Byzantine Art and Archaeology. Courses taught: “Introduction to Byzantine Art and Archaeology” and “Crusader Art and Archaeology”.

CONFERENCE, ROUND TABLES & SESSION ORGANIZATION

- **Across Seas, Across Cultures: The Transmission of Female Saint Cults from East to West.** Session at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (San Francisco, 19-21 February 2026)
- **Viewing the Invisible: Multisensory Approaches to the Divine in East and West:** Double ICMA-sponsored session at the International Congress for the Study of the Middle Ages (University of Leeds, 7-10 July 2025)
- **Vision as Faith: Sensing the Divine in Byzantium:** Session sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture at the 60th International Congress of Medieval Studies (University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, 8-10 May 2025)
- **The Other Half of Heaven: Visualizing Female Sanctity in East and West (c. 1200-c. 1550):** Double ICMA-sponsored session at the 54th International Congress of Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, 9-12 May 2019)
- **In Search of Crusader Art: Current Approaches and New Perspectives:** Session at the 4th Forum Medieval Art (Berlin, 20-23 September 2017)
- **Melusine of Cyprus: Studies in Art, Architecture, and Visual Culture in Honor of Annemarie Weyl Carr:** International conference, in collaboration with Dr. Justine Andrews and Dr. Andrew McCarthy at CAARI (the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute) in honor of Prof. Emerita Annemarie Weyl Carr (Nicosia, Cyprus, 19-21 May 2017)
- **Mendicant Orders in the Eastern Mediterranean. Art, Architecture and Material Culture (13th-16th c.):** International Conference on the mendicant orders and their artistic activity outside Italy (Nafplion, Greece, 19-23 April 2017)

- **Byzantium in Change. Art, Archaeology and Society in the Thirteenth Century:** Thematic Session, co-organized with Dr. Jenny Albani at the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Belgrade, 22-17 August 2016)
- **Between Byzantium and the West. Crossing Cultures in the Visual Arts of Late Medieval Cyprus:** Session, co-organized with Prof. Justine Andrews, at The Byzantine Studies Conference 2015 (New York, 22-25 October 2015)
- **Beyond Venice. Locating the Renaissance in the *Stato da Mar*:** Round-table at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Berlin, 26-28 March 2015)
- **Continuity and Change in a Medieval Society. The Transition of Cyprus from Byzantine Province to Crusader Kingdom:** Workshop, co-organized with Dr. Tassos Papacostas, at King's College, London (December 2001)

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES & SEMINARS

February 2025: Centre for Mediterranean Studies, Ruhr Universität Bochum (online)

March 2022: Deree: The American College of Greece, Department of Art History

November 2021: University of Athens, Department of Social Theology

April 2021: Orthodox Academy of Crete (online)

December 2020: Byzantine Seminar Series, Ankara University (online)

April 2018: Center for Byzantine Studies, Aristoteleian University of Thessaloniki

May 2016: Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani, Venice

April 2016: Università degli Studi di Padova, Dipartimento dei Beni culturali

May 2015: University of London, Birkbeck College, The Murray Seminar

May 2015: University of Oxford, Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

March 2014: Jagiellonian University of Krakow, Department of the History of Art

April 2012: University of the Peloponnese, Department of History and Archaeology

June 2011: University of Oxford, Byzantine Art and Archaeology Seminar

May 2011: University of Thessaly, Department of History & Archaeology

October 2010: Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Cyprus

March 2009: King's College, London, Late Antique and Byzantine Studies Seminar

May 2009 & 2010: University of Athens, Department of Archaeology and History of Art

December 2009: University of Thessaloniki, Department of History and Archaeology

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. **"The Tree of Jesse at Pelendri: Between the Narrative and the Symbolic"**, in *Proceedings of the IV International Congress of Cypriot Studies. Nicosia, 29 April-3 May 2018* [forthcoming].
2. **"The Colonel and the Painter. The Medieval Monuments of Rhodes in the Eyes of Bernard Rottiers and Petrus Witdoek"**, in Vinni Lucherini and Stefano d'Ovidio (eds.), *Discovering Medieval Art while Looking for Antiquity. Travellers in Southern Europe (17th-early 19th centuries)* (Roma: Viella, 2024)
3. **«East is East and West is West? Artistic Interchange across Frontiers in the Eastern Mediterranean»**, in Angeliki Lymberopoulou (ed.), *Cross-Cultural Interaction between*

Byzantium and the West, 1204-1669. Whose Mediterranean Is It Anyway? Papers from the Forty-Eighth Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Milton Keynes, 28th–30th March 2015 (Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies Publications 20. Routledge: London and New York, 2018), 152-172.

4. **"An (almost) Unknown Cretan Icon of Saint Martin at the Petit Palais Museum in Paris"**, *Festschrift for Professor P.L. Vocotopoulos*, Centre for Byzantine Studies, Thessaloniki (Athens: Kapon Editions, 2015), 323-332.
5. **"Paving the Road to Sinai: George and Maria Soteriou on the Holy Mountain"**, in Sharon E.J. Gerstel & Robert S. Nelson (eds.), *Approaching the Holy Mountain. Art and Liturgy at St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai*, (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011), 15-33.
6. **"An 'Italo-Byzantine' Icon with the Pietà and Saints from Cyprus"**, *Kypriakai Spoudai [=Cypriot Studies]* 72 (2008), 137-160.
7. **"Sainted Ladies and Wicked Harlots: Perceptions of Gender in Medieval Cyprus"**, in Diane R. Bolger and Nancy J. Serwint (eds.), *Engendering Aphrodite: Women and Society in Ancient Cyprus. Proceedings of an International Conference held at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, Nicosia, March 19-23, 1998* (CAARI Monographs 3-, Boston, M.A., 2002), 157-168.
8. **"Images of Everyday Life: Life in the City and the Countryside"** (pp. 81-98); **"Images of Everyday Life: Life at Home"** (pp. 99-115); **"The Brilliance of Byzantine Civilization: The Influence of Byzantium beyond the Frontiers of the Empire"** (pp. 117-133): chapters in the collective volume *Byzantine Hours. Works and Days in Byzantium, Athens-Thessaloniki-Mystras*, accompanying the homonymous exhibition (Athens: Ministry of Culture, 2001) [in Greek and English]
9. **"An Unusual Representation of the Incredulity from Lusignan Cyprus"**, *Cahiers Archéologiques*, 48 (2000), 71-87.
10. **"Dedicatory Inscriptions and Donors' Portraits in the Churches of Hospitaller Rhodes, 1204-1522"**, in *Rhodes 2400 Years. The City of Rhodes from Its Foundation to the Turkish Conquest. Proceedings of an International Conference, Rhodes, 24-29 October 1993*, 2 vols. (Athens: Archaeological Receipts Fund, 2000), vol. 2, 449-464.
11. **"The Medieval Art of Cyprus in the Era of Leontios Machairas and Georgios Boustronios"**, in *Leontios Machairas and Georgios Bourstronios. Two Chronicles of Medieval Cyprus. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Leventeion Municipal Museum, Nicosia, September 21, 1996* (Nicosia: The Leventis Foundation, 1997), 87-96.
12. **"Cyprus between Byzantium and the Levant: Eclecticism and Interchange in the Cycle of the Life of the Virgin in the Church of the Holy Cross at Pelendri"**, *Epeteris Kentrou Epistimonikon Erevnon [=Annual of the Cyprus Research Centre]*, XXII (1996), 215-245.

CONFERENCE PAPERS (abroad only)

1. **"Crowning the Passion: The Flagellation and Mocking of Christ in the Art of Hospitaller Rhodes"**. 11th Quadrennial Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (University of Porto, Portugal, 29 June-3 July 2026)

2. **"From Lusignan Cyprus to Hospitaller Rhodes: Artistic Mobility in the Eastern Mediterranean after the Fourth Crusade"**. The Ninth International Conference of The Society for the Medieval Mediterranean (University of Lisbon, 22-26 June 2026)
3. **"Affective Devotion and Embodied Emotion: Franciscan Influence on the Art of Venetian Crete"**. The Second Conference of the Society for the Study of Medieval Emotions. 'Emotion and Politics in the Medieval World (University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 26 – 27 June 2025
4. **"From Flandres to Rhodes: Bernard Rottiers, Petrus Witdoeck, and the medieval heritage of a Greek island"**. International Congress on The Early Discovery of Medieval Art by Travellers looking for Classical Antiquity in Southern Europe (from the 17th to the beginning of the 19th c.) (Universita degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples, 20-21 November 2023)
5. **"Crusader' Art, the Acre Triptych, and the Franciscans"**. Byzantines Studies Conference (UCLA, Los Angeles, 3-6 November 2022)
6. **"The Acre Triptych and Franciscan Patronage in the Latin East"**. 10th Quadrennial Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (Royal Holloway College, University of London, 27-29 June 2022)
7. **"Mendicant Patronage on Greek Islands under Western Rule and Its Impact on Local Art and Architecture"**. Online International Conference on the Greek Islands under the Control of Western Rulers (13th-15th c.). Searching for their Identity through their Patronage (Athens, 3-4 December 2021) [[keynote speaker](#)]
8. **"Beyond the Borders of Byzantium: Artistic Mobility in the Eastern Mediterranean after the Fourth Crusade"**. International Congress of Medieval Studies (University of Leeds, 5-8 July 2021) [online]
9. **"The Acre Triptych Revisited: Picturing Devotion, Empathy and Passion in the Art of the Latin East"**. XVIII Conference of Byzantine Studies (University of Barcelona, 30 January-2 February 2019)
10. **"Clothes maketh the (wo)man? Dress, Identity, and Society in Lusignan Cyprus"**. *Inside Out: Dress and Identity in the Middle Ages*. Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University (New York City, 17-18 March 2018)
11. **"Mendicant Orders in the Latin East: The Role of the Franciscans in the Visual Culture of Thirteenth-Century Cyprus"**. *The Latin East in the Thirteenth Century: Institutions, Settlements and Material Culture. Commemoration the 800th Anniversary of 'Atlit Castle*, Haifa University (Haifa, 31 January-2 February 2018)
12. **"An 'Italo-Byzantine' Triptych with the Nativity: Saint Benedict and Saint Francis"**. *Actual Problems of the History and Theory of Art*. International Conference organized by St. Petersburg State University—Lomonosov Moscow State University—The State Hermitage Museum (Saint Petersburg, 11-15 October 2016).
13. **"Brothers in Arms: Benedictines and Franciscans on Venetian Crete"**. 7th Biennial Conference, Society for Renaissance Studies (University of Glasgow, 18-20 July 2016).
14. **"Rural vs. Urban in the Visual Culture of Medieval Cyprus"**. The Byzantine Studies Conference 2015 (New York, 22-25 October 2015).

15. **"Mapping Popular Piety on the Holy Island of Cyprus"**. The 16th International Conference of Historical Geographers (London, 5-10 July 2015) [[invited participation](#)]
16. **"East is East and West is West: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Outremer"**. The 48th Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies (Milton Keynes, 28-30 March 2015) [[invited participation](#)]
17. **"A Morbid Taste for Bones: Holy Relics, Patron Saints and Miraculous Images in the Eastern Mediterranean"**. *The Holy Portolano. The Sacred Geography of Navigation in the Middle Ages*. International Congress organized by the Medieval Institute of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (Fribourg, 2-4 September 2013) [[invited participation](#)].
18. **"Cross-Cultural Encounters in Outremer: Lusignan Cyprus and the Holy Land"**. *Cultural Exchanges between Byzantium, East and West in the Late Byzantine World (12th-16th centuries)*. International Conference organized by the University of Haifa and the Israel Onassis Program of Byzantine and Modern Hellenic Studies (Haifa, 16-17 May 2012).
19. **"The Sacred Geography of Medieval Cyprus: Village Saints and Popular Piety"**. *Cyprus between East and West: Round Table at the XXII International Congress of Byzantine Studies* (Sofia, 22-27 August 2011) [[invited participation](#)].
20. **"Defending 'Orthodox Doctrine' against 'Latin Heresy': A Visual Testimony from Lusignan Cyprus"**. *Identity/Identities in Late Medieval Cyprus: The Joint Newton Fellowship and Annual Institute of Classical Studies Byzantine Colloquium* (London, 10-12 June 2011) [[invited participation](#)].
21. **"From Byzantine Provence to Crusader Kingdom: Perspectives and Reflections on the Art of Medieval Cyprus"**. *Cyprus from Byzantium to the Renaissance: Study Day* (Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C., 1 April 2011) [[invited participation](#)].
22. **"Saint Martin of Tours: From Roman Amiens to Venetian Crete"**. *Espace sacré, mémoire sacrée: les saints-évêques et leurs villes*: Colloquium organized by the Université François-Rabelais, Tours and CeRMAHVA=Centre de Recherche sur les mondes anciens, l'histoire des villes et l'alimentation (Tours, France, 10-12 June 2010).
23. **"Franciscans on the Go: The Ashmolean Pieta in Context"**. XLII Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, King's College London and the Courtauld Institute of Art (London, 20-22 March 2009).
24. **"Memory and Identity: Effigial Tombstones and Funerary Plaques from Hospitaller Rhodes"**. 7th International Congress of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East (SSCLE) (Avignon, France, 27-31 August 2008).
25. **"Lusignan Cyprus and Armenian Cilicia: Between Politics and Art"**. *Rough Cilicia: New Historical and Archaeological Approaches*: International conference organized by the University of Lincoln, Nebraska, USA (Lincoln, USA, 24-27 October 2007).
26. **"Displaying the Liturgy: The Apse Decoration of the Church of Archangel Michael at Lefkara, Cyprus"**. XXI International Congress of Byzantine Studies (London, 21-26 August 2006).

27. **“Circulating Images, Transmitting Ideas: The Cultural Economy of Crusader Cyprus”.** 6th International Congress of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East [SSCLE] (Istanbul, 25-29 August 2004).
28. **“Art and Society in Lusignan Cyprus: From Symbiosis to Osmosis and Back Again”.** International Medieval Congress 2004 (University of Leeds, England, 12-15 July 2004).
29. **“Eastern or Western? The Tree of Jesse in Cyprus”.** *Identités croisées en un milieu méditerranéen: le cas de Chypre*. International conference organized by the University of Rouen (Rouen, France, 11-13 March 2004) [invited speaker].
30. **“Before and After: Art, Artists and Models in Byzantine and Lusignan Cyprus”.** *Continuity and Change in a Medieval Society: The Transition of Cyprus from Byzantine Province to Crusader Kingdom*. Workshop held at King’s College, London (London, 8 December 2001).
31. **“Royal Patronage in Cyprus: The Example of the ‘Latin’ Chapel at Pyrga”.** XX International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Paris, 19-25 August 2001).
32. **“Orientalism versus Occidentalism: Cyprus at the Crossroads”.** *Between Empires: Orientalism before 1600*. International conference organized by the University of Cambridge (Cambridge, England, 15-21 July 2001).
33. **“Encounter, Symbiosis or Acculturation? The Case of Lusignan Cyprus”.** International Medieval Congress 2000 (University of Leeds, England, 10-13 July 2000).
34. **“Lusignan Cyprus and Its Neighbours: Artistic Interchange across Frontiers”.** XXXIII Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies (University of Warwick, England, 27-29 March 1999).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Art and material culture in Latin Greece (the Peloponnese, Rhodes, Crete, Cyprus, 13th-16th c.) and the Eastern Mediterranean
- Issues of acculturation and interaction of Byzantine with Western art after the Fourth Crusade
- Costume and portraiture in relation to ethnic identity in the Latin Orient
- Crusader art and archaeology
- Mendicant Orders in the Latin East and their impact on art and material culture
- Religious landscapes and the cult of local saints