
T.R.A.C.E., The Renaissance Academy @ the Center for Ethics

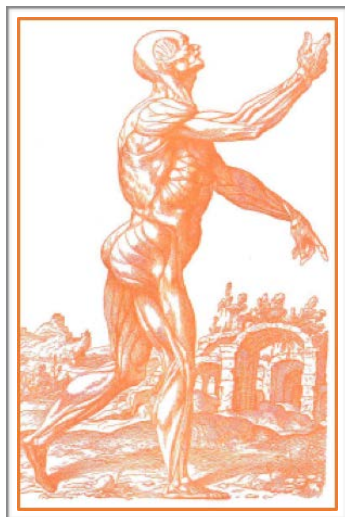
presents:

Conversations in Italy @ the Carlos!

October 25, 2016

About the Event

The Renaissance Academy at the Center for Ethics (T.R.A.C.E.), an Emory University collaborative, hosted *Conversations in Italy* at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Art on October 25, 2016. Sponsored by the Paul W. Seavey Distinguished Lectureship in the Emory Department of Medicine, the Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Department of French and Italian Studies, and the Center for Ethics at Emory, the evening provided the opportunity for “those seeking to engage the arts...to become better listeners, inspire compassion, and improve health.”



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Judy Raggi Moore, Emory University

A Discussion of the Venus



The evening began with a gathering in the Carlos Museum's Greek & Roman gallery to hear Dr. Bonna Wescoat, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History, introduce *The Venus*. Wescoat shared with the group, as they observed the sculpture in the round, the legacy from which this Medici-era Roman copy of an original Greek sculpture had sprung; the figure depicts an idealized human, and marks a period in art in which the nude female form could be explored artistically.



The guests - health care practitioners, multi-disciplinary professionals, professors, and students - were encouraged to view the sculpture from all angles to fully appreciate its subtlety of motion, and formalized expression of proportion before making their way to drinks and a light dinner in the museum's reception hall.



Introduction and Welcome

In the reception hall, an original edition of Vesalius' *De Humani Corporis Fabrica Libri Septem* sat under glass, turned to the front page for visitors to see. The special exhibition of this text was courtesy of the Health Sciences librarian, Sanda Franklin. Once seated, the guests were welcomed by Dr. Judy Raggi Moore, Professor of Italian Studies in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences. She credited the many professors, physicians, students, and community members who have contributed to the "Medicine, Compassion, and the Arts," course within the Italian Studies Cross-Disciplinary summer studies program in Italy.



Next, Dr. Ruth Parker, Professor of Medicine at Emory University, described the origin and founding of the "Medicine, Compassion and the Arts" class – whose ultimate goal is to ensure that students' hearts are as developed as their minds. Next, Dr. Parker encouraged guests to model the critical thinking structure employed in the summer program. She asked each table to share among themselves their thoughts

regarding three fundamental questions about the Venus: What do you *see*? What do you *think*? What do you *wonder*?



A Discussion of Vesalius and the Role of Art in Medicine



The keynote speaker of the evening, Dr. Salvatore Mangione, Associate Professor of Medicine and the Director of the History of Medicine course at Jefferson University, Philadelphia, presented his thoughts on "Leonardo, Vesalius, and the Reinvention of Anatomy."

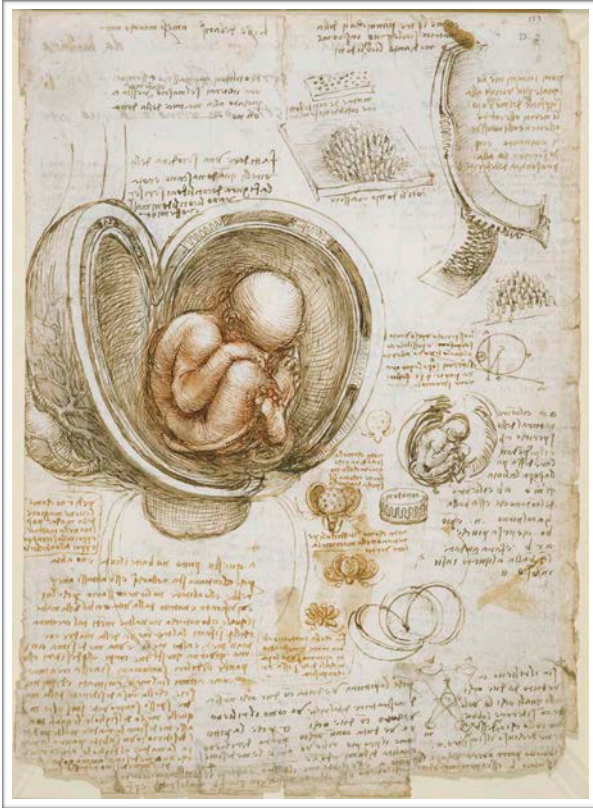
Dr. Mangione argued that both da Vinci and Vesalius challenged the established dogmas of 15th-16th century Europe. By moving away from the animal models of Galen, which had been used as the foundation of understanding of human anatomy, da Vinci and Vesalius charged that it was only through human cadaveric dissection that human anatomy could be fully unveiled.

While da Vinci created hundreds of sketches of his findings, from intricate illustrations of the circulatory system to a stunning depiction of a fetus in the uterus, he never published his findings and his drawings were lost for hundreds of years before their rediscovery.

In contrast, Vesalius, who likely had seen da Vinci's notebooks, not only published his observations, but employed the help of an artist trained in Titian's workshop to create the iconic images printed in his 1543 *De Fabrica*. Dr. Mangione pointed out that in that era people thought in pictures rather than in words, and the imagery throughout the work, and particularly on the front plate, conveys the tradition from which Vesalius came and from which he would be breaking with his pivotal anatomical text. The text highlights the ways in which art and medicine, at this time, were inseparable and unified.



Ultimately, Dr. Mangione argued it was the tension between skepticism and dogma that led to the scientific revolution and to Vesalius's pursuit of anatomical mastery. Through the emergence of universities across Europe, the development of printing, the burgeoning intellectual freedom, and the art of dissection, broad thinkers were venturing out beyond the established tenets.



From da Vinci, to Vesalius, to Michelangelo, to Rembrandt, the boundaries between art and science were blurred, highlighting the value of both beauty and function, or, as da Vinci best defined it, “virtue and knowledge.”



Responses from Program Participants



John David Ike, a fourth-year medical student at Emory University and former TA of "Medicine, Compassion, and the Arts," noted the value of the "see, think, wonder" framework, which the course had provided him and his students. He spoke of the insight they gained in wedding arts and sciences together and the skills that such insights could foster in life and in daily patient care.

Dr. Pamela Scully, Professor and Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Innovation at Emory University, next noted the "need to be humble in the gaze." She emphasized the ways in which classifying observation as objective can perpetuate representations that may not always be accurate.



Mr. Stephen Forte, an attorney and managing partner at Smith, Gambrell, & Russell, LLP, provided an interpretation of art as a reflection of the rules and laws of a society, which, he explained, create a code adopted for common good. His father-in-law, Dr. Paul W. Seavey, had been a model physician in striving for that common good; he always put the patient first, which for Mr. Forte translated beyond medicine to mean that one should put his charge before his desires.



Concluding Remarks and T.R.A.C.E. Announcement



Dr. Paul Root Wolpe, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Bioethics and Director, Center for Ethics at Emory University, noted that his view of ethics includes how we express and assess our values in the world. He believes the arts are a vehicle for this reflection. Dr. Wolpe emphasized that when we consider the great societies of our world, what we remember most is their art; art is therefore a legacy of the values of the historical eras in which it is created.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the creation of **The Renaissance Academy @ the Center for Ethics (T.R.A.C.E.)**. T.R.A.C.E. is a collaboration between scholars, health professional students, professionals in our community and across the country, and faculty across the disciplines that builds on the opportunities offered in the Italian Studies summer immersion course in Italy, led by Dr. Judy Raggi Moore and Dr. Ruth Parker.

Born of a long established humanities academic journey throughout Italy, designed and conducted annually by Prof. Raggi Moore since 1987, this program, now housed under the purview of the Emory Center for Ethics, will further enhance the connections between:

- the Arts and the Health Sciences,
- undergraduate and graduate scholarship,
- faculty, professional, and student cross-disciplinary dialogues at Emory University and beyond.



Ongoing Efforts

To learn more about our ongoing efforts in the medical humanities, please visit our website: www.conversationsinitaly.com

We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

