

Robin Margaret Jensen

Vanderbilt University Divinity School
Nashville, Tennessee 37240-2701
robin.jensen@vanderbilt.edu

Teaching

2003-Present: Luce Chancellor's Professor of the History of Christian Art and Worship
Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee.

1991-2003: Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity
Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts.

Fall, 2000: Walter and Mary Tuohy Chair in Interreligious Studies
John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Education

Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary
PhD, 1991: History of Christianity. MPhil, 1986; MA, 1977.
Thesis: "Living Water: Images, Symbols, and Settings of Early Christian Baptism."

Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York
MDiv program, 1974-76.

Parsons School of Design, New York, New York
Department of Fine Arts and Illustration, 1975-77.

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota
BA, 1973 (*magna cum laude*). Majors: Visual and Theatre Arts.

Grants and Awards (Individual, Collaborative, and Institutional)

Luce Foundation Grant to Vanderbilt University Divinity School for development of a program in Religion and Contemporary Culture, Nov. 2007 (\$340,000).

Henry Luce III Fellowship (Theology and the Arts), 2001-2002.

Project director (and principle writer), Luce Foundation grant for Andover Newton's Program in Theology and the Arts (\$275,000).

Recipient, Lilly Theological Research Grants – Small Grant, 1997 (for research on baptismal architecture in Syria and Eastern Turkey — \$4,000).

Project Director (and principle writer), "North African Christianity in Religious and Cultural Context: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Diverse Forms of Ancient Christianity," National Endowment for the Humanities: Division of Research -- Collaborative Grants (\$88,000).

Younger Scholars' Award, Association of Theological Schools, Theological Research and Scholarship Award, 1994-1995 (\$15,000).

American Academy of Religion Individual Grant, 1993 (for research and travel in North Africa -- \$3,000).

Summer Seminar participant, American Numismatic Society, 1983.

Fund for Theological Education Trial Year Fellow, 1974-75.

Publications - Books

Face to Face: The Portrait of the Divine in Early Christianity (Fortress, 2005).

The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith, and the Christian Community (Eerdmans, 2004).

Understanding Early Christian Art (London: Routledge, 2000).

In process: *The Art and Architecture of Ancient Christian Baptism* (a catalogue of photographs, drawings, and detailed descriptions of images and baptismal spaces in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East (under contract with Brill Publishers, expected publication date, January 2005).

Co-author and editor (in progress): *Devotion, Discipline, and Dissent: Ancient Christianity in North Africa* (a collaboratively written manuscript, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, preliminarily submitted to Johns Hopkins Press).

Co-editor, *The Challenge of the Modern: Contemporary Visual Art and the Church*, eds. Robin Jensen and Kimberly Vrudny (forthcoming, Liturgical Press, 2008).

Co-Editor and Director, with Richard Rutherford and William Caraher: *Baptisteries of the Early Christian World* (a multi-media, international project to catalogue ancient Christian Baptisteries).

Under contract: *The Early Church*, for The Westminster History of the Christian Church (four volume series), with J. Patout Burns.

Contributions to multi-authored volumes

In press: “*Mater Ecclesia and Fons Aeterna: The Church and Her Womb in Ancient Christianity*,” for *The Feminist Companion to Patristic Literature*, ed. Amy-Jill Levine (Pilgrim Press).

In press: “The Passion in Early Christian Art,” for *Perspectives on the Passion*, eds. Christine Joynes and Christopher Rowland (Continuum Press, 2008).

Forthcoming: “Christianity in North Africa,” for the *Cambridge History of Ancient Religions* (Cambridge University Press).

In Press: “Patristic Readings of Divine Theophanies: God’s Visibility in the Early Church,” for *God in Patristic Thought, a Memorial Volume Honoring Lloyd Patterson*, ed. Andrew McGowan (Brill Publishers).

“Early Christian Images and Exegesis” for the exhibition catalogue, *Picturing the Bible: The Earliest Christian Art*,” at the Kimbell Art Museum, October - March 2007 (Yale University Press, 2007), 65-85.

“Material Evidence: Material Evidence: Visual Culture” for *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies*, eds. Susan Ashbrook Harvey and David Hunter (Oxford University Press), 231-268.

“Dining with the Dead,” for *Commemorating the Dead, Texts and Artifacts in Context*, eds. Laurie Brink and Deborah Green (Walter deGruyter Press, 2008), 107-43.

“Art – The Textbook of the Illiterate?” in *The Subjective Eye: Essays in Culture, Religion, and Gender in Honor of Margaret R. Miles*, eds. Deborah Haynes and Richard Valantasis (Wipf and Stock Pub., 2006).

“Toward a Christian Material Culture,” for *Early Christianity: Origins to Constantine, Vol. 1* of the *Cambridge History of Christianity*, eds. Frances Young and Margaret Mitchell (Cambridge University Press, 2005), 568-85.

“Baptismal Rites and Architecture” for *The People’s History of Christianity, vol. II: Late Ancient Christianity*, ed. Virginia Burrus (Fortress Press, 2005), 117-144.

“The Portrait of God in Christian Visual Art,” in *Arts, Theology, and the Church: New Intersections*, eds. Kimberly Vrudny and Wilson Yates (Pilgrim Press, 2005), 139-57.

“The Fall and Rise of Adam and Eve in Early Christian Art and Literature” for *Interpreting Christian Art: Papers from the Pruitt Memorial Symposium*, eds., Heidi Hornik and Mikael Parsons (Mercer University Press, 2003), 25-52.

“Christian Art” in *The Early Christian World* (vol 2), ed. Philip Esler (London: Routledge, 2000), 747-772.

"The Binding or Sacrifice of Isaac -- How Jews and Christians See Differently," *Abraham and Family: New Insights into Patriarchal Narratives* (Biblical Archaeological Society, 2000), 3-12.

"The Dura Europos Synagogue: Early Christian Art and Religious Life in Dura Europos," in *Jews, Christians, and Polytheists in the Ancient Synagogue*, ed. Steven Fine (London: Routledge, 1999), 174-89.

"Giving Texts Vision and Images Voice: The Promise and Problems of Interdisciplinary Scholarship" in *Common Life in the Early Church*, ed. Julian Hills (Trinity Press International, 1998), 344-56.

"Debating the New Testament Canon," "Early Biblical Interpretation," "Establishing the Christian Canon," and "New Ways of Studying Scripture," in *The Bible Through the Ages* (Reader’s Digest General Book Division, 1996), 202-3, 210-11, 212-13, 270-71.

Articles – Academic (Peer Reviewed Journals)

Forthcoming: “With Pomp, Novelty, Avarice and Apparatus: Alternative Baptismal Practices in Roman Africa,” *Studia Patristica* (2008).

Forthcoming: “Those Who See God Receive Life: The Idol, the Icon, and the Invisible God,” *Worship* (Spring, 2008).

“The Arts in Protestant Worship,” *Theology Today*, 58.3 (October, 2001), 359-68.

“The Trinity and the Economy of Salvation on Two Early Christian Sarcophagi,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 7 (1999), 527-46.

“The Femininity of Jesus in Early Christian Art,” *Studia Patristica* vol. 29 (1997), 269-82.

“New Trajectories for the Interpretation of Early Christian Iconography: A Review Essay,” *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 1995 (Scholars Press, 1996), 27-43.

"Isaac's Sacrifice in Jewish and Christian Tradition: Image and Text," *Biblical Interpretation* (Fall, 1993), 85-110.

"Moses Imagery in Jewish and Christian Art: Problems of Continuity and Particularity," *SBL Seminar Papers* (Fall, 1992), 389-418.

Articles – Popular or General

“The Womb of Mother Church,” *Faith and Form* 3.9 (October, 2006), 19-23.

“Visual Revelation,” *New Conversations* (Winter, 2004), 17-27.

“How Pilate Became a Saint,” *Bible Review* (December, 2003), 22-31, 47.

“Jesus Up Close,” *The Christian Century*, 120.19 (September 20, 2003), 26-30.

“The Two Faces of Jesus,” *Bible Review* 17.8 (October, 2002), 42-50

“Witnessing the Divine,” *Bible Review* 17.6 (December, 2001), 24-32, 59.

“Image, Sanctity, and Truth,” *ARTS* 13.2 (Fall, 2001), 26-31.

“Idol or Icon: A Development in Early Christianity,” for *Art and Christianity Enquiry Bulletin* (October, 2001), 14-15.

“Christian Community, Sacred Space, and the Liturgy in Roman Africa,” *ARTS* 12.1 (Spring, 2000), 7-13.

“Dining in Heaven” *Bible Review* 14/5 (October, 1998), 32-39, cont. 48-9.

“The Suffering and Dead Christ in Early Christian Art,” *ARTS* 8.1 (1995), 22-8.

“Of Cherubim and Gospel Symbols,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 21.4 (July-August, 1995), 42-3, cont. 65.

“Raising Lazarus,” *Bible Review* 11.2 (April, 1995), 20-29.

“Starting an Arts and Theology Program from Scratch: A Case Study in Faculty Cooperation,” *ARTS* 6.2 (Spring, 1994), 26-7.

“The Binding of Isaac -- How Jews and Christians See Differently,” *Bible Review* 9.5 (October, 1993), 42-51.

“Isaac as a Christological Symbol in Early Christian Art,” *ARTS* 5.2 (Winter, 1993-94), 6-12.

“What are Pagan River Gods Doing in Scenes of Jesus' Baptism?” *Bible Review* 9.1 (February, 1993), 35-41, 54-5.

Encyclopedia and Dictionary Articles; Exhibition Catalogue Entries

Forthcoming, “Icons and Iconography,” for the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*.

Forthcoming: “Art and Theology,” for the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*.

Forthcoming: “Dura Europos,” and “Iconography and the Bible,” for *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*.

Forthcoming: “Art and Architecture in Early Christianity,” “Catacombs,” “Mosaics,” and “Orant,” for the *New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*.

Forthcoming: “Dolphin,” “Moses,” “Lazarus,” “Meal,” “Pilate,” “The Jordan River,” “Jesus Washing the Disciples’ Feet” and “Belkalta, Baptistry” for the *Encyclopedia of Early Christian Art and Archaeology*, ed. P. Corby Finney (Garland Press).

“Epitaph with baptismal scene,” for the exhibition catalogue: *Picturing the Bible: The Earliest Christian Art*, ed. Jeffrey Spier (Yale, 2007), 206.

“Art,” “Iconoclasm,” “Iconography,” and “Manuscript Illumination,” for the *Dictionary of Jewish-Christian Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

“The Eucharistic Liturgy in the Basilica Major in Hippo” for *Augustine through the Ages: An Encyclopedia*, (with J. Patout Burns), Allan Fitzgerald, General Editor (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999), 335-38.

“Sculpture” and “Painting,” for the revised edition of the *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*, 2nd edition, ed. Everett Ferguson (New York: Garland, 1997), 852-856 and 1041-43.

Book Reviews

Forthcoming: *Monuments: America’s History in Art and Memory*, Judith Dupré (Random House, 2007), for *Faith and Form Magazine*.

Forthcoming: *Dynamic Splendor*, Henry Maguire and Ann Terry (Penn State Press, 2007), for *The Journal of Religion*.

Forthcoming: *Theology in Stone, Church Architecture from Byzantium to Berkeley*, Richard Kieckhefer (Oxford University Press, 2004), for *The Journal of Religion*.

Forthcoming: *The Sepphoris Synagogue: Deciphering and Ancient Message through Its Archaeological and Socio-Historical Contexts*, Zeev Weiss (Israel Exploration Society, 2005), for *Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture*.

Art and Judaism in the Greco-Roman World, Steven Fine (Cambridge University Press, 2005), for *Biblical Archaeology Review* 33.5 (September/October, 2007), 74.

Christian Monuments of Cyrenaica, J. B. Ward-Perkins and R. G. Goodchild, ed. J. M. Reynolds (Society for Libyan Studies, 2003), for *Journal of Roman Archaeology, On Line Reviews* (July, 2006).

The Lord’s Prayer through North African Eyes, Michael Joseph Brown (T & T Clark, 2005), for *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 67 (2005), 709-10.

City, Temple, Stage: Eschatological Architecture and Liturgical Theatrics in New Spain, Jaime Lara (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005), for *Worship* 80 (January, 2006), 80-82

Constantine and Rome, R. Ross Holloway (Yale University Press, 2004), for the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 13 (Fall, 2005), 403-405.

Objects, Images, and the Word: Art in Service of the Liturgy, ed. Colum Hourihane (Princeton University Press, 2003), for *Doxology* (2004), 137-40.

Art and the Christian Apocrypha, David Cartlidge and Keith Elliott (Routledge, 2001), for *the Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Spring, 2003), 121-22.

The Forbidden Image: An Intellectual History of Iconoclasm, Alain Besançon (University of Chicago Press, 2000), for *Theological Studies* 64.1 (March, 2002), 160-62.

Women Officeholders in Early Christianity, Ute Eisen (Liturgical Press, 2000), for the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Spring, 2002), 135-38.

The Journey of the Magi, Richard C. Trexler (Princeton University Press, 1997), for *Bible Review* 16 (December, 2000), 42-45.

Medieval Liturgy: A Book of Essays, ed. L. Larson-Miller (Garland, 1997), for *Metabolica et Humanistica* (Spring, 2000).

Perpetua's Passion: The Death and Memory of a Young Roman Woman, Joyce Salisbury (Routledge, 1997), for *Theological Studies* 60.1 (March, 1999), 190-91.

The Oxford Companion to Christian Art and Architecture, eds. Peter and Linda Murray (Oxford University Press, 1996), for the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (Winter, 1998), 686-88.

The Archaeology of Early Christianity, William H.C. Frend (Fortress, 1996), for *Church History* 67.1 (March, 1998), 117-19.

Augustine and the Catechumenate, William Harmless (Liturgical Press, 1995), for *Theological Studies* 58.1 (March, 1997), 161-63.

The Invisible God: The Earliest Christians on Art, Paul Corby Finney (Oxford University Press, 1994), for the *Christian Spirituality Bulletin* 3.1 (Spring, 1995), 27-28.

Jewish Historiography and Iconography in Early and Medieval Christianity, H. Schreckenberg and K. Schubert (Fortress Press, 1992), for *Theological Studies* 54.4 (December, 1993), 732-34.

Film, DVD, and Video

Consulting Editor: "Painting Paradise," BBC series, part I from *Art of Eternity*"

Participant: *The Jesus Project* — Paulist Productions (2000-2001).

Living Water: The Rite and Meaning of Christian Baptism, an educational video tape produced by the Andover Newton Video Library (1994).

The Early Christian Bible in Art: Pagan or Jewish Roots? produced by The Biblical Archaeological Society (1999).

Travel-Related Research

Arles and the South of France, photographic studies of early Christian monuments and churches (October, 2004).

Italy and Tunisia (June and July, 2004) as part of a group of scholars studying Jewish and Christian burial practices in Late Antiquity, funded by a grant from the International Catacomb Society.

Rome, Naples, and Ravenna, travel-study courses (June and July, 2003), sponsored by Catholic Theological Union and Andover Newton Theological School.

Algiers, Algeria (April, 2001): for the International Conference, "Augustine, The Holy Man," sponsored by the Islamic High Council of Algeria.

Tunisia, Malta, and Italy (August, 2000): led a travel-study course for Catholic Theological Union, and partially supported by a grant from the Luce Foundation.

South-eastern Turkey and Syria (September, 1997): supported by a grant from the Lilly Foundation, administered by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Tunisia (June, 1996): Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Southern France (August, 1995): Supported by a grant from the Association of Theological Schools.

Tunisia (June, 1993): Supported by a grant from the American Academy of Religion.

Italy, France, and Switzerland (July, 1989), supported by a dissertation research grant from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University.

Invited Lectures (Selected and Recent)

“The Face of Christ: The Visible Image of the Invisible God,” 2007 Peter Craigie Memorial Lecture, University of Calgary (October, 2007).

“Bringing Blessings Back: Christian Pilgrimage and the Transportation of Sacred Space in Late Antiquity,” for the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University in conjunction with the exhibition “Cradle of Christianity,” (Sept. 2007).

“Those Who See God Receive Life: The Icon and the Invisible God in Early Christian Art,” the 2007 Godfrey Diekmann Lecture, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN.

“The Tomb Mosaics of Roman Africa,” for the Index of Christian Art, Princeton University (February, 2007).

“What is Truth in Sacred Art?” the 2006-7 Campus Theme Lectures, North Park College, Chicago, IL (January, 2007).

“The Role of the Nude in Early Christian Art,” for Quodlibet Society, Cornell University (March, 2006).

“The Passion in Early Christian Art,” for a conference at Christ Church and Queens Colleges, Oxford University (March, 2005).

“Basilicas, Baptisteries, and Burials,” for Creighton University Art History Series (March, 2005).

“The Sign of Jonah,” the 2003 Kieval Lecture at Siena College (November, 2003).

“The Invisible God and the History of Christian Art,” the 2002 Ed Weltin Lecture at Washington University (October, 2002).

“The Theology of Early Christian Art,” for Corpus Christi College, Oxford University (England), March 2002.

Fellowships, Consultations, Boards, and Professional Activities (Current)

President, Society for Art, Religion, and Theological Studies (2007-)

Program Committee, Society of Biblical Literature (2006-2009).

Fellow: Robert Penn Warren Center, Vanderbilt University, 2006-7.

Fellow: Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Vanderbilt University, 2005-8.

Member: Editorial Board, *Faith and Form Magazine* (a publication of the American Institute of Architecture).

Member, Council of the American Society of Church History, 2005-present.

Co-Chair, SBL Consultation: Art and the Religions of Antiquity, 2004-present.

Member, Board of Directors, International Catacomb Society, 1997-present
Vice President, 1999 - 2004.

Member, Board of Directors, Society for Art, Religion, and Theological Studies (2002-present).

Member, Board of Directors and Fellow, the Society for Arts, Religion, and Contemporary Culture (2003-2005, Fellow since 1996).