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CEU, History and Medieval Studies Departments

The Precincts of Power and the Politics of Images in Renaissance Florence

17:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2013  
CEU–Faculty Tower #409  
Budapest, V. Nádor u. 9.

Reception to follow!

This faculty seminar talk has developed from Prof. Szőnyi’s course, “Florence: The Laboratory of the Renaissance” which was offered a year ago at CEU’s Medieval Studies and History Departments. The presentation will consist of two parts. First, the lecturer will show a 35 minutes’ video of his own make to present the crucial precincts of power in Renaissance Florence. These include the spiritual center, the Duomo and the Battistero; the commercial center, the Mercato Vecchio, the Mercato Nuovo and the Orsanmichele; and the centers of political power, beginning with the Palazzo della Signoria and continuing with the movement of the Medici from their Renaissance palace to the Palazzo della Signoria (Palazzo Vecchio) and to the Palazzo Pitti. The visual presentation will be followed by a 25 minutes’ lecture illustrating the interrelatedness between power, patronage, and the creation of artworks inspired by Cosimo il Vecchio, Lorenzo il Magnifico, and Grand Duke Cosimo I.

Gy. E. Szőnyi (1952), is professor of English and Hungarian Studies at the University of Szeged, Hungary. Since 2006 he has been part time professor of cultural and intellectual history at the Central European University, Budapest. He is a cultural- and literary historian with special interest 1/ in the Renaissance, 2/ the role of the occult in early modern and postmodern literature/culture, 3/ in cultural theory, especially in cultural symbolism and the relationship of words and images, 4/ in Central European Studies with a focus on Hungary and Poland. His recent monographs include Gli Angeli di John Dee (Rome: Tre Editori, 2004); Pictura & Scriptura. 20th-Century Theories of Cultural Representations (in Hungarian, Szeged, 2004); John Dee’s Occultism. Magical Exaltation Through Powerful Signs (Albany: SUNY Press, 2004, pb. 2010). Monographs in the making: The Enoch Readers. A Cultural History of Angels, Magic, and Ascension on High (in English); The Lure of the Occult: Western Esotericism and (Post)modern Fiction (in Hungarian); Our Image of the Past on the Screen: Filmic Representations of History (in Hungarian).