



Ad vivum?

A lecture by Professor Joanna Woodall

The term 'ad vivum' and its cognates 'al vivo', 'au vif', 'nach dem Leben' 'naer het leven' have been used since the 13th century to refer to depictions to/from life. Ad vivum was indeed an approach to, and/or mode of, depiction that was translated far and wide, both geographically and in relation to a whole range of visual materials, from portraits to anatomical and botanical illustrations. Working between human portrayal and depictions of the natural world, this lecture will explore the kind of information that needed, and was considered, to be reliably transmissible in an image. It will ask how such images were perceived as 'true', if they did not necessarily record direct contact between artist and model.

Joanna Woodall is Professor of Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London. Her research focuses on early modern Netherlandish art, portraiture, realism, the significance of the copy and translation. She has published widely in Art History, the *Berliner Jahrbuch*, the *Leids Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek* and the *Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek*. Her edited book, *Portraiture: Facing the Subject* has become a standard work on the subject and in 2007 she published a major monograph, *Antonis Mor. Art and Authority*.

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