

UNION DAY 2005
Thursday, October 6

ARTFUL RESISTANCE: Lost Christian Texts and Popular Imagination

9:00 AM Late (full-price) Registration
Take advantage of pre-registration and speed your entry to the Union Day programs

UNION DAY SCHEDULE James Memorial Chapel

9:30 AM Welcome

10:00 AM Framing the Discussion
Hal Taussig

10:10 AM Presentation and Q&A
Elaine Pagels
LOST CHRISTIAN TEXTS:
What are they and what are scholars saying about them?

11:00 AM THE DIVINE BODY Project
Sarah Olson

11:05 AM Break

11:15 AM Presentation and Q&A
Eleanor Heartney
ART, RELIGION AND RESISTANCE

12 NOON Worship

12:30 PM Lunch
Refectory luncheon tickets only with all-inclusive registration (Option I). List of neighborhood restaurants available.

2:00 PM Response to Presentations
Hal Taussig
LOST CHRISTIAN TEXTS AND POPULAR IMAGINATION

2:30 PM Dance Presentation
Layard Thompson

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Panel Discussion
Moderator: Elaine Pagels
Panelists: Eric Fischl, Linda Hampton, Tom Miller, Sarah Olson, Annette Yoshiko Reed
WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE TEXTS TO YOU?

4:15 PM Closing Q&A

5:00 PM President's Reception

This public symposium—presented in conjunction with a month-long collaborative art exhibition titled THE DIVINE BODY on display at three Morningside Heights venues—will provide an introduction to the non-canonical early Christian texts that continue to captivate popular imagination and inspire artists who incorporate ideas around religion and the body in their work. Elaine Pagels and other speakers will engage the audience in a broader conversation about these timely issues, and a panel of artists, scholars, seminarians, and clergy will reflect on the question “What is the significance of these lost texts to you, your work, your world?”

SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKERS, ARTISTS, PERFORMERS,
PANELISTS and WORSHIP LEADERS

ELAINE PAGELS is Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Dr. Pagels participated with other scholars in editing texts from Nag Hammadi.

ELEANOR HEARTNEY is a New York based art writer and cultural critic. She is contributing editor to Art in America and Artpress and has written extensively on contemporary art issues in magazines and newspapers.

HAL TAUSSIG is visiting professor of New Testament at Union Theological Seminary in New York and a co-pastor at the Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

BRUCE W. FERGUSON is dean of the Columbia University School of the Arts, where he heads the graduate divisions of Theatre, Film, Visual Arts, and Writing.

ERIC FISCHL is an artist known for mercilessly capturing moments in the lives of the American middle classes and for his particularly intense engagement with this theme. His paintings, drawings and prints have appeared in numerous exhibitions around the world.

LINDA HAMPTON is a third-year Master of Divinity student at Union Theological Seminary.

TROY MESSENGER is director of worship at Union Theological Seminary, where he coordinates chapel, public performances, and art exhibits and teaches in the Theology and the Arts Program.

TOM MILLER '89 is Canon for Liturgy and the Arts at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York.

SARAH OLSON is an artist whose work explores ideas of divinity, sexuality, gender, and spiritual transcendence.

ANNETTE YOSHIKO REED is an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University, where she teaches courses on Hebrew Bible, early Judaism, and early Christianity.

LAYARD THOMPSON is a professional choreographer and dancer who has worked with Erik Kaei, The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, J. Mandle Performance, and Beppie Blankert, among others.

JANET WALTON '79 is professor of worship at Union Theological Seminary, where she oversees the Theology and the Arts Program.