

# **John Weretka**

## **Art and Ecstasy: A New Look at Bernini's St Teresa**



This is Bernini's Ecstasy of St Teresa. But is it? Showing a key moment in the life of St Teresa, this statue has been known for centuries as the ecstasy of St Teresa, but what does it actually represent? This paper probes the literature of ecstasy from St Thomas Aquinas to St Teresa herself, showing that the ecstatic state had a profound theological and physiological rationale in the Baroque. Tracing the tradition of the 'pure' ecstatic representation, this paper hopes to contribute to an understanding of the iconography of ecstasy in this and Bernini's late masterpiece, the Beata Ludovica Albertoni.

Please RSVP to [tould@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tould@unimelb.edu.au) if you plan to join us for dinner in Lygon st afterwards

**Monday 10 September 6.30 pm**  
**Room 148 Elisabeth Murdoch Building**  
**All Welcome**