

Paolo Uccello's *Saint George and the Dragon* and the Threat of the Pagan

Dr Hugh Hudson

Floortalk, NGV International Friday 23 March 11.30 am

Paolo Uccello's *Saint George and the Dragon* in the National Gallery of Victoria is the earliest and arguably the most important of three versions of the subject by the artist. This floortalk will discuss the Melbourne painting's provenance, technique, style, iconography, and what it reveals of Uccello's work in the early 1430s, the decade in which he painted such masterpieces as the Equestrian Monument for Sir John Hawkwood in Florence Cathedral and the Battle paintings. The work's iconography will be addressed in terms of Christianity's fear of the pagan—'the poisonous cunning of the old snake'—expressed through imagery referring to the eternal battle between cosmic forces of good and evil, life and death, light and darkness. The danger the dragon represents to the princess in Uccello's painting can be read as a metaphor of the threat posed by pagan influences on children.



Meet in front of the painting, 3rd Floor, NGV International, at 11.25 am.

Free event, all welcome, but please RSVP attendance to: s.gillberg@bigpond.com (Susan Gillberg)

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