

THE CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

and

THE ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT

present

The Annual Ferber Lecture

*Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the
Anderson Center Reception Room*

Adrian W. B. Randolph

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“Wild Hair: Donatello and Sculptural Askesis.”

The matted hair and eremitical wildness of Donatello's arresting wooden sculpture of the Magdalen not only represent her as an ascetic anchorite, but also instantiate a form of sculptural askesis. That is, the materials, form, and iconography of the sculpture produce a viewing experience that parallels the Magdalen's asceticism, and, in so doing, tests cultural, geographic, and human limits. I wish to examine this work, considering especially its woodiness, hairiness, and wildness, in order to understand how it might be seen to challenge certain norms of femininity, cultural identity, and the complex definition of the human and the animal.



Donatello, details from *Mary Magdalene*. 1454-1455, Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Florence, Italy.



CEMERS, an interdisciplinary research unit established in 1966, promotes innovative research and scholarly exchange in medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies.

For additional information, please contact the Director's office (607-777-2730 or kbarzman@binghamton.edu) or visit our Web site at cemers.binghamton.edu. For directions to campus, please visit the Binghamton University Web site (<http://www.binghamton.edu/home/about/visit.html>). E-mail: cemers@binghamton.edu