



VariAbilities 2025

**Representing the Body:
Exploring Unique Representations
cross Visual Disciplines**

To be held at

Mercy University

11-15 June 2025, New York, U.S.A.

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The representation of the body is a fundamental aspect of human culture, reflecting societal values, norms, and power structures. From ancient civilizations to contemporary times, various visual disciplines have been employed to create different forms of bodily representation to convey meaning, express emotions, to teach and tell stories. This conference seeks to examine a wide range of representations across multiple visual forms, and across a wide history, shedding light on the ways in which they intersect, diverge, and influence one another.

Some of the key questions we shall address might be:

How do different visual disciplines (e.g., medical imagery and illustration, painting, photography, sculpture) represent the human body, and what are the implications of these representations?

What role does performance play in bodily representation, and how do various forms of performance (e.g., doctor/patient interactions, dance, theatre, music) shape our understanding of the body?

How do word-based and image-based portrayals of the body differ (e.g. literary and cinema, poetry and portraits) , and what insights can be gained by comparing these approaches?

In what ways do representations of the body reflect social attitudes towards gender, race, class, VariAbility, and other forms of identity?

These some of the many questions you may wish to explore, you may have others!

Please email a 300 word proposal to Variabilities8@gmail.com
by 31st January 2025
www.peculiarbodies.org

The event will take place at the Mercy University Campus in Manhattan, where there is some dorm accommodation for delegates should they choose it. There is also some scope for online presentations for those who have travel issues.

Come and tell us what the "body" means to you.

[Please disseminate this call for papers as widely as you can – thank you!](#)