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ALL ABOUT Mary



Written by Isabelle Brocard & Yves Thomas

Directed by Isabelle Brocard

Produced by ARTURO MIO, Arte France,
Pictanovo & CNC

2x52'

Intention & concept

For 2,000 years, Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been the most illustrated woman in the world. What can we learn about our societies by exploring the representations of a young Jewish girl who became the most famous woman in the world? What was she meant to say? By taking a closer look at the thousand faces she has been given by painters and sculptors over the centuries, the story of the place of women is told. And today, at a time when the patriarchal model is being deconstructed, Mary could have a lot to tell us... I've always been intrigued by the image of this perfect mother, of this desexualised woman, frozen in eternal youth. But at the same time, an image is only the reflection of its era, of one society. So, I ended up saying to myself that it wasn't Mary's fault, and that I wanted to know more about the development of this influential icon. So I've decided to tell the story of how Mary has been portrayed, rather like a portrait of a star with an exceptional destiny. By observing all the faces that artists and anonymous people have given her, and by putting her iconography into perspective with the help of specialists in history, ethnology and theology, I propose a retrospective of the roles played by this young Jewish girl who, in spite of herself, became the most famous woman in the world.

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myth and the cult of Mary tell us about our societies and their relationship with religion, the feminine, the sacred, morality and art. Based on an analysis of iconography and sometimes texts, the survey follows the birth of the myth and its development like a soap opera, mainly chronologically and geographically. The multi-disciplinary insights provided by the speakers not only place the works in the context in which they were produced, but also examine today's world through the prism of this timeless icon. Indeed, Mary and her avatars have never left the collective imagination and therefore the field of our representations. With each face of Mary, we need to look at the purpose for which this figure has emerged and the effects it has had on society, art, religion, history, etc. However, a closer look at these images reveals that for a long time now the figure of Mary has, in her own way, transcended and shaken up the religious and patriarchal ideologies she is supposed to serve.





Speakers contacted and in attendance



DELPHINE HORVILLEUR

Rabbi and philosopher, author of *En tenue d'Eve Féminin, pudeur et judaïsme*, among other books.

ANNE SOUPA

Theologian and author of *Dieu aime-t-il les femmes?*
Anne Soupa has applied to become Archbishop of Lyon

HOURIA ABDELHAHOUE

Psychoanalyst - Author of *Figures du féminin en Islam*

SHERIN KANKAHN

Lady of the Mariam Mosque

MARION MÜLLER-COLLARD

Pastor, Protestant theologian, writer

ELISABETH CLAVERIE

Anthropologist, CNRS research director
Specialist in Marian apparitions and their role in conflicts, author of *Les guerres de la Vierge* (The Virgin's Wars).

NATHALIE DIETSCHY

Art historian, University of Lausanne
Specialist in the relationship between sacred and secular art in the 20th and 21st centuries

PHILIPPE DESCOLA

Ethnologist, author of *Les formes du visible*

DOMINIQUE DESJEUX

Anthropologist, *Le marché des dieux:*
How religious innovations are born
From Judaism to Christianity

FABIENNE HENRYOT

Curator, National Library of Lausanne, co-author of *Dictionnaire historique de la Vierge Marie*

MICHEL PASTOUREAU

Medieval historian, anthropologist
Author of *Bleu* and *Le petit livre des couleurs*

PATRICK BOUCHERON

Historian of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.
Author of *Conjurer la peur, essai sur la force politique des images*.

MICHAEL PEPPARD

Professor of Theology, Yale University

NEVILLE ROWLEY

Art historian, curator at Berlin's Bode Museum

MARINA WARNER

Mythographer, author of *Seule entre toutes les femmes, mythe et culte de la Vierge Marie*

And the artists in their studios: KIKI SMITH, SOASIG CHAMAILLARD, etc...





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