The Mystery of Divine Embodiment: From Abstraction to the Icon

Featuring Father Silouan Justiniano
Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014 • 12:30–1:45 p.m.
Art Museum Renaissance Room • Olney Hall, Lower Level

Father Silouan Justiniano was born in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1973. He completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts and later earned a Master of Fine Arts from Hunter College in New York City. In 1997, he embraced Eastern Orthodoxy. Drawn to monastic life, in 2002 Fr. Silouan was tonsured a monk, and in 2006 he was ordained to the priesthood. He is part of Holy Cross Monastery (ROCOR) in Long Island, N.Y. His obediences in the monastery consist of serving the daily cycle of services and painting icons. It was, in fact, in the monastery where, through the blessing and guidance of his spiritual father, Fr. Silouan learned icon painting—in particular through researching the medieval egg-tempera techniques. Throughout the years before discovering icon painting, Fr. Silouan experimented with various styles of figuration and abstraction, searching for a visual language to communicate the Sacred in art, but he grew disillusioned with the art world’s fragmentary theories and the cult of novelty. The yearning for a way of visually manifesting the Sacred, a way of expressing the transcendent in the immanent, through painting as symbol, was ultimately fulfilled in his encounter with the Icon. He is currently a contributor to the Orthodox Arts Journal. He has also contributed to Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity and Luvah: Journal of the Creative Imagination.

Co-sponsored with the Art Museum and the Fine Arts Department.

Event is free and open to the public.
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