



Gilles-Marie Oppenord, *Design for a Title Page, with Four Old Testament Figures*, 1732-42, Pen and black and brown inks, gray wash, over graphite, on paper. 151 x 207 mm. Purchased as a gift of the Fellows. 1964.20

Graduate Seminar: *Ornament by Design*

Friday, May 8, 2026

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Katie Scott, FBA, Professor Emeritus in the History of Art, Courtauld Institute of Art,
Thaw Senior Fellow**

The seminar will address the question of the relationship between ornament and representation: both the process by which things observed in the world are transformed into ornament and the ways in which ornament and representation are coaxed into co-existence. Key to the seminar discussion will be the botanical drawings of Madeleine Basseporte, to be examined and considered in the context of ornament, not science, and the album of drawings related to the illustration of Descamps' *Vie des peintres flamands*, which includes both portrait drawings and designs for frames. Johannes Carl Zay's *Album amicorum* and Pierre-Elisabeth de Fontanieu's *Desseins des ouvrages faits au tour et en marqueterie* will be discussed—in relation to function—and we will also draw on the Morgan's rich holdings of ornament drawings from Oppenord to Cauvet for comparison.

This seminar is open to graduate students of the history of art. Interested participants are kindly invited to submit a one paragraph statement which should include the following:

- Name and email
- Academic institution
- Class year
- Field of study
- Interest in natural history and ornamental/design drawings and relevance of the seminar to your research

Application Deadline: 27 March 2026

Applications should be submitted electronically with the subject header "Ornament"

Seminar to: drawinginstitute@themorgan.org

Participants will be notified by 03 April 2026.



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