

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LECTURE SERIES FB07

20.11.

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**The late byzantine
painter workshop of
Michael Veneris and his
uncle Theodor Daniel
on Crete**

Under archaeological aspects, Crete is often associated with the ancient palace of Knossos. Until today relatively little attention has been paid to the nearly 1000 late Byzantine churches, which were mostly founded under the Venetian rule from 1211 to 1669. This island has an overwhelming fund of material for investigations of the late byzantine period. Nearly all of those churches still show parts of or entire original wall paintings and some of them also bear interesting inscriptions. One of those inscriptions tells us about two painters who were uncle and nephew and worked at the beginning of the 14th Century in the western part of Crete.

Characterising this workshop in its whole and all its (so far) known colored churches, was one of the main aspects of this PhD-Project. Until now a structured and systematic recording and handling of these ecclesiastical buildings has not taken place.

With using stylistic analyses, it was possible to find about thirty churches, which belong to Michael Veneris or Theodor Daniel. How did the painter workshops of this time work? Did they have connection to other workshops and painters on Crete? This lecture will try to answer some of these questions on the basis of the so called “Veneris-Workshop” and gives some information about the cultural and historical structure on Crete during the venetian period.