

The Fifty-Eighth Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**
Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



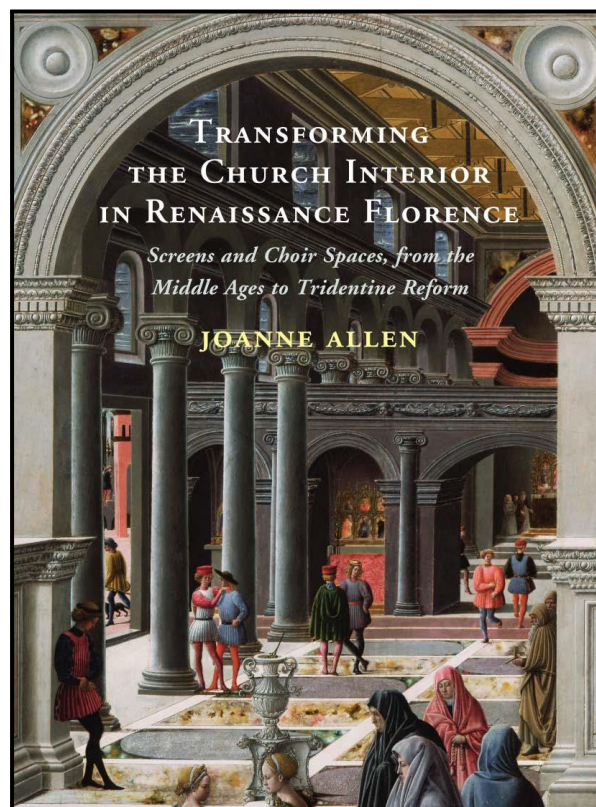
Joanne Allen
(American University)

Transforming the Church Interior in Renaissance Florence

**Monday, 12 December 2022,
2:00 p.m. (EST) via Zoom**

To join, please use the following Zoom link:
<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/87509825829>
Meeting ID: 875 0982 5829 Passcode: 242476
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Before the late sixteenth century, the churches of Florence were internally divided by monumental screens that separated the laity in the nave from the clergy in the choir precinct. Enabling both separation and mediation, these screens were impressive artistic structures that controlled social interactions, facilitated liturgical performances, and variably framed or obscured religious ritual and imagery. In the 1560s and 1570s, screens were routinely destroyed in a period of religious reforms, irreversibly transforming the function, meaning, and spatial dynamics of the church interior. In this presentation, Joanne Allen explores the widespread presence of screens and their role in Florentine social and religious life prior to the Counter-Reformation.



JOANNE ALLEN is Senior Professorial Lecturer in Art History at American University in Washington D.C. Her work has focused on choir stalls, rood screens and alterations to liturgical space in Italian churches during the Renaissance. Her recently published book, *Transforming the Church Interior in Renaissance Florence*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2022 and was supported by The Renaissance Society of America and The Italian Art Society.