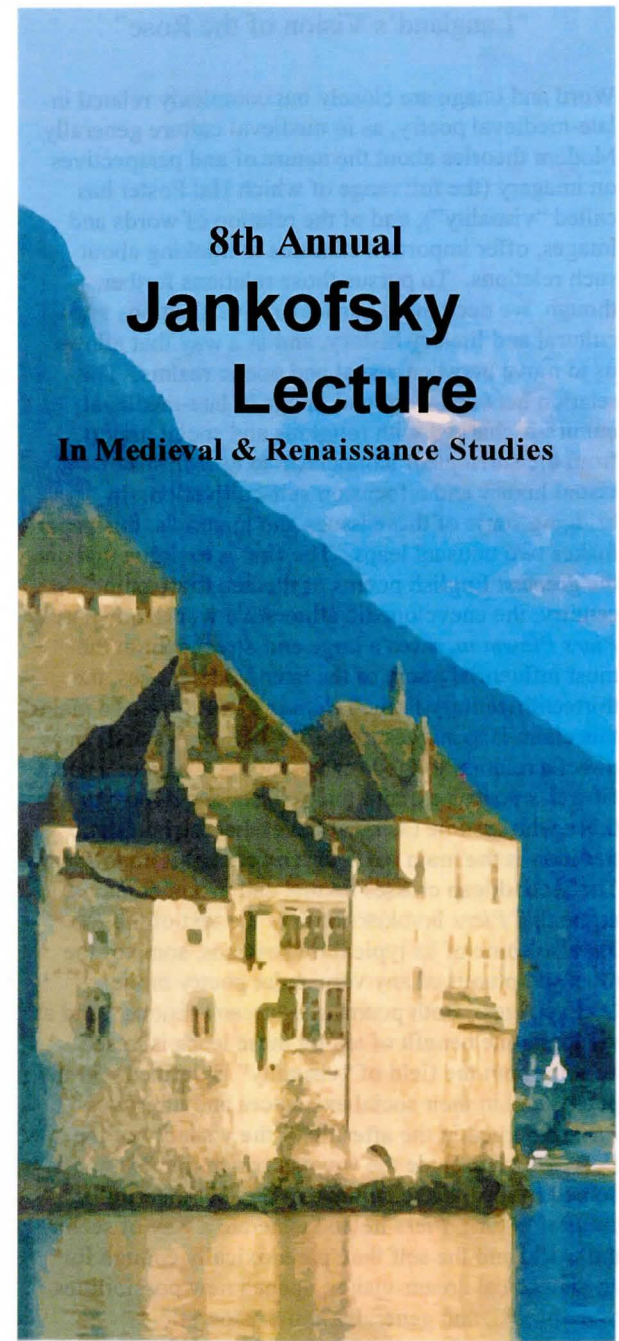


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**8th Annual
Jankofsky
Lecture**

In Medieval & Renaissance Studies

“Langland’s Vision of the Rose”

Word and image are closely but complexly related in late-medieval poetry, as in medieval culture generally. Modern theories about the nature of and perspectives on imagery (the full range of which Hal Foster has called “visuality”), and of the relation of words and images, offer important stimulus to thinking about such relations. To pursue those relations further, though, we need more particular investigations into cultural and literary history, and in a way that allows us to move between visual and poetic realms. The relation between word and image in late-medieval culture is charged with religious and social import, from the stirrings of iconoclasm to new forms of visual luxury and a focus on self-cultivation. In bridging some of these issues and materials, this paper makes two unusual leaps. The first is to argue that one of the greatest English poems of the late fourteenth century, the encyclopedic alliterative work known as *Piers Plowman*, owes a large and direct debt to the most influential poem of the later Middle Ages, the thirteenth-century French *Roman de la Rose*. To make this claim is to suggest that *Piers Plowman* stands in as direct a relation to the French work as Chaucer’s and Gower’s poetry, a claim that will seem perverse to those who assume (as most have) that the homiletic tradition is the main basis for and background to *Piers*. The second leap crosses textual and visual domains, to argue that *Piers* invokes not only the text of the *Rose* but also some of its typical illustrations, some of the most sumptuous of any vernacular poetry in the Middle Ages. Both poems are “dream-visions,” and at the least, one benefit of taking these leaps is to see how for both the field of “visuality” is defined—in the poems and in their social existences and afterlives. *Piers* emerged in the afterlife of the visuality of the *Rose*, which include the ways in which the *Rose* helped shaped the self-image of aristocratic English culture; in turn, *Piers* helped generate a way of seeing the world and the self that, paradoxically enough for an allegorical dream-vision, opened new possibilities of empirical, and generally anti-aristocratic, exploration of the natural and social world.



The Department of English at the University of Minnesota Duluth is pleased to announce

The Eighth Annual Jankofsky Lecture

In Medieval and Renaissance Studies
In memory of Klaus Jankofsky

Featuring

Dr. Andrew Galloway
Professor of English Cornell University

Presenting

“Langland’s Vision of the Rose”

Tuesday, 17 April 2007
3:00pm
Tweed Museum, UMD

Wine and cheese reception will follow

Dr. Andrew Galloway is currently a Professor of English at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He received his doctorate in English and Medieval Studies from the University of California at Berkeley in 1991.

Dr. Galloway’s scholarly interests include Old and Middle English, especially Lydgate, Chaucer, Langland and Gower, medieval historical writing, intellectual communities and the sociology of knowledge, visions of women and women’s writings, paleography and codicology. His latest books include *The Penn Commentary on Piers Plowman, Volume One: C Prologue-Passus 4; B Prologue-Passus 4; A Prologue-Passus 4* and *Volume Two: C Passus 20-22; B Passus 18-20 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006)*, and *Medieval Literature and Culture: A Student Guide (Introduction to British Literature and Culture) (London: Continuum Press, 2007)*. He is currently writing *A History of Middle English* for Blackwell press.

Besides and because of his status as one of the world’s premier Langland scholars and an all around luminary in the field of medieval literary studies, Dr. Galloway’s career has been marked by tireless and exhaustive service to the profession. He served as the Director of the Medieval Studies Program at Cornell from 2005-2006. He has served on the editorial boards of *The Yearbook of Langland Studies* since 2004, Cornell University Press, from 1999 to 2002, *Figurae: Reading Medieval Culture* (Stanford University Press) from 1999 to 2002. He has also served as a consultant for the Middle English Texts Series and the Consortium for the Teaching of the Middle Ages (TEAMS) since 2003. Since 2005, he has served on the Executive Committee of the Division on Chaucer for the Modern Language Association of America, and from 1994-1996 he served as a representative at the Division on Middle English Language and Literature, excluding Chaucer, for the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association.

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