

## Hanging Garlands: Evidence of Lived Religion at Pompeii

Roman painting is full of items associated with religious practice. Garlands, in particular, are found as decorative embellishments in Roman frescoes, often draped over different panels to enliven the painted surface with the semblance of abundant fresh flowers. There are indications, however, that in Roman domestic spaces, latrines, and streets physical garlands were actually *attached* to the frescoes, mimicking the painted garlands below. This paper considers the limited evidence from Pompeii of how Roman paintings worked in tandem with physical objects, such as garlands. Spaces like these invited viewers to engage in a mimetic act with not only the two-dimensional painted surface, but also with the three-dimensional space they inhabited. Such acts were part of ancient lived religion, a conceptual framework that examines past religious experiences, focusing on the individual and their communication with the divine. Thus, the relationship between various media created unique experiences in the daily lives of ancient Romans rarely considered today.