



Yale University

# NEWSLETTER

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

THE PAUL MELLON LECTURES 2002

Paul Binski

## THE LIVING CHURCH

*Art, Architecture and the Religious Imagination in Thirteenth-Century England*

Autumn 2002 at the National Gallery, London

This year's Paul Mellon Lectures will explore key issues in the development and understanding of English Gothic art. They aim to present a cultural history of art and architecture as representational and imaginative forms, between the crisis of Thomas Becket's martyrdom at Canterbury in 1170 and the emergence of the so-called 'Decorated Style'. Becket's Canterbury authorised one influential vision of the Church as a living entity. The idea of the Church as comprising 'living stones' had widespread implications for the Church conceived as a space of the religious, aesthetic and ethical imagination. This conception will be traced through the art and architecture, cults of saints, physical expressivity, devotional preoccupations and, finally, crises of the 'long thirteenth century'.

Paul Binski is Reader in the History of Medieval Art in the University of Cambridge. He has published numerous studies on English and European art of the Gothic period, including the *Age of Chivalry* exhibition catalogue (co-edited with Jonathan Alexander, 1987), *Westminster Abbey and the Plantagenets* (1995) and *Medieval Death* (1996). He is also presenter of the Channel 5 TV series 'Divine Designs'.

The lectures are the fifth in a series given biennially by an invited specialist in British art, held at the National Gallery and supported by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Tickets are £20 (£15 concessions) for the whole series or £5 (£3) for individual lectures. For more information or to request a booking form, please contact:

Advance Ticket Sales  
The National Gallery  
Trafalgar Square  
London WC2N 5DN  
tel. 020 7747 2888

(information only, please note that telephone bookings cannot be taken)



The Society of Antiquaries of London

Crucifixion from the Lindesey Psalter (1214-1222)

Lectures take place on Mondays at 6.30 pm in the Sainsbury Wing Lecture Theatre at the National Gallery.

28th October

### *Becket and the Aesthetics of Martyrdom*

The cult of Becket at Canterbury and its role in the formation of this important early Gothic church

4th November

### *Architecture, Morality and Emancipation*

The theories which may have influenced the spread of English Gothic architecture

11th November

### *The Cult of Saints*

The role of saints as models of new ideals in the Church

18th November

### *Gothic Expressivities*

A history of facial expression in English Gothic art, and of the range of emotions of religious sentiment

25th November

### *Crisis*

A final lecture on the origins of the Decorated Style, and its end