

# 'Gothic' and its Legacies

Thursday 10 December 2009  
11.00am - 6.00pm, Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre



Giorgio Vasari, writing in the sixteenth century, famously associated what he saw as a decline in the arts of painting, sculpture and architecture with the invasion of Rome by 'Goths and other barbarians'. Just what constitutes 'Gothic' art, however, remains contentious. In the nineteenth century John Ruskin was amongst those who explored the meaning of the term, seeking to define the 'Gothicness' of medieval works. Unlike Vasari, however, Ruskin celebrated this quality and advocated the use of this 'Gothic' style by contemporary artists and architects.

In the centuries after the Middle Ages are usually considered to have ended, works of art and architecture from the period continued to be used as inspiration for works in a wide range of media. At the same time, surviving material was sometimes reworked under the guises of conservation or improvement. This workshop will explore such responses to the art of the Middle Ages in works of art and architecture produced after 1550.

Photo: L Cleaver.  
Nineteenth-century painting  
in Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris.

## PROGRAMME

- 11.00 Welcome: Laura Cleaver & Ayla Lepine (The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- Session 1: Art and Literature** (Chair: Caroline Levitt, The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 11.10 Charlotte de Mille (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *'Death in Venice', a Gothic Opera?*
- 11.30 Camelia Darie (University of Manchester), *Victor Brauner and the Surrealist Appeal to 'roman noir'*
- 11.50 Gilda Williams (Open University), *Andy Warhol: A Modern Danse Macabre*
- 12.05 Discussion

- 12.25 BREAK FOR LUNCH
- Session 2: Rereading the Middle Ages** (Chair: Lesley Milner, The Courtauld Institute of Art)
- 1.30 Laura Cleaver (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *Hunting for Goths: King Childebert's Tomb in the Twelfth and Seventeenth Centuries*
- 1.50 Anne Moignet-Gaultier (Université Paris 10), *From Form to Formalism in the Reception of Gothic Architecture*
- 2.10 Niamh Nic Ghabhann (Trinity College, Dublin), *Reconstructions of the Gothic Past: Ruins and the Improving Landlord in Early Nineteenth-century Ireland*
- 2.30 Discussion
- 2.45 BREAK
- Session 3: 'Gothic' Values?** (Chair: Laura Cleaver)
- 2.50 Matthew Woodworth (Duke University), *The After-Lives of Gothic England*
- 3.10 Ayla Lepine (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *Sacred Building, Sacred Bodies: George Frederick Bodley and Frederick Hart at Washington National Cathedral*
- 3.30 Niccola Shearman (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *Chasing Linear Fantasies: A Study of the Gothic Line in the Woodcuts of Ernst Barlach*
- 3.50 Discussion
- 4.05 TEA BREAK (tea is provided in the student café)
- Session 4: 'Gothic' Taste?** (Chair: Ayla Lepine)
- 4.40 Peter Nelson Lindfield (University of St Andrews), *The Relationship between Antiquarianism and the Gothick: Britain between 1740 and 1830*
- 5.00 Owen Hopkins (The Courtauld Institute of Art), *'Mere ... heaps of stone without form or order'? Perceptions and Uses of the Gothic in James Ralph's Critical Review (1734)*
- 5.20 Jeong-yon Ha (University of Edinburgh), *The Gothic and Modernity of Tower Bridge*
- 5.40 Discussion
- 6.00 Closing remarks

The day will conclude with a reception.

All welcome but numbers are limited. **Advance booking by 7 December 2009 is essential.** To register and for further information contact Laura Cleaver at [Laura.cleaver@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.cleaver@courtauld.ac.uk).