

in association with the  
International Center of Medieval Art, New York

## ICMA at the Courtauld Lecture 2012/13

Series made possible through the generosity of Dr. William M. Voelkle

Wednesday 20 February 2013  
5.30pm, Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre

**Dr. Helen C. Evans** (Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

*“Sailing to Byzantium”: Understanding a Lost Empire*



Medallion of the Virgin, Byzantine, from the Djumati Monastery (modern Republic of Georgia), c. 1100, Constantinople. Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917. 17.190.675

Since The Metropolitan Museum of Art's founding in 1870 its collection of Byzantine Art has been presented in dramatically differing ways. The changes reflected, or led, the interest of scholars and the public in the arts of an empire whose state ended more than half a millennium ago. This paper considers the Metropolitan Museum's installations and exhibitions as they relate to the evolution of our understanding of Byzantium and its periphery and possible future areas of exploration and installation.

Helen C. Evans is a specialist in Early Christian, Byzantine and Armenian art, she received her masters and Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. After joining the curatorial staff of the Museum in 1991, she installed the Mary and Michael Jaharis Galleries of Byzantine Art, the first galleries dedicated to Byzantine art in an encyclopedic museum, in 2000 and expanded them in 2008. She has curated three landmark exhibitions on Byzantine Art - *Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition (7th – 9th Century)* in 2012, *Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557)* in 2004, and *The Glory of Byzantium: Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era (843-1261)*. Her other exhibitions include: *Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts; Textiles of Late Antiquity; and The Philippe de Montebello Years: Curators Celebrate Three Decades of Collecting*, in honor of the director's retirement in 2008. Dr. Evans has lectured widely in the United States and abroad and has taught at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, Columbia University, Hunter College, the University of Chicago, and Oberlin College. She is a member of the Board of the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture at Holy Cross College; treasurer and a founding member of the Association of Art Museum Curators; and former chair of the Editorial Board of the *Art Bulletin*.

Open to all  
Free admission

Lecture followed by a reception  
sponsored by Sam Fogg

This lecture is presented by The Courtauld Institute of Art in association with the International Center of Medieval Art, New York, and with the support of The Courtauld Institute of Art's Research Forum. The International Center of Medieval Art promotes the study of the visual arts of the Middle Ages in Europe. Its worldwide membership includes academics, museum professionals, students, and other enthusiasts. The lecture series 'ICMA at The Courtauld' is made possible through the generosity of Dr. William M. Voelkle.

ICMA publishes a scholarly journal *Gesta*, a newsletter, supports a website, and sponsors lectures and conference sessions. email: [ICMA@medievalart.org](mailto:ICMA@medievalart.org) and web: <http://www.medievalart.org>. Annual membership application forms for ICMA will be available at the lecture: Students \$20 Others (non-US) \$70. Local arrangements: Dr Joanna Cannon, The Courtauld Institute of Art, [joanna.cannon@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.cannon@courtauld.ac.uk)