



THE YEAR IN QUESTION  
**1220**  
 THURSDAY 16 JUNE

By 1220 the very language of art was in full flux. The solid Romanesque style which had dominated the twelfth century was in retreat before the extraordinary grace and greater naturalism of expression of the Gothic. The shift was heralded by the astounding impact made by The Shrine of the Three Kings in Cologne Cathedral, designed by the revolutionary metalworker Nicholas of Verdun, who in returning Romanesque art to a classical naturalism, actually paved the way for a new Gothic realism in some of the most elegant and eloquent manuscripts, sculpture, stained glass and enamelwork ever produced in the entire history of Western Art. Architecturally the year saw astounding achievements: the completion of the rebuilding of Chartres Cathedral after its 1194 fire, the rebuilding of Amiens and York Minster; the laying of the foundation stones for the Cathedral of Salisbury at its new site at the open confluence of five rivers - a seismic shift from security behind the fortress walls of Old Sarum; the completion of Lincoln's magnificent Gothic nave, and the completion of much of Canterbury Cathedral including its astounding scheme of stained glass. Abroad, Frederick II was crowned Holy Roman Emperor, and established the Hohenstaufen dynasty in Palermo. From there he ran a dazzling court, promoted the Sicilian language in poetry and laid the foundations of modern Italian. Meanwhile, Francis of Assisi resigned his leadership of the Franciscan Order as its rival, the Dominican Order, received approval from Pope Honorius III. Wolfram von Eschenbach, the German Knight and Minnesinger poet, died, and the great philosopher Roger Bacon was born. 1220 represents a watershed in European culture.

**All *Culture in Question* lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise stated. Please join us for coffee at 10.30 (optional), the lecture at 11, and a light lunch with wine served at 1pm. The event ends by 3.30 p.m.**

**Each study day, unless otherwise indicated, costs £85 for INSCAPE members, £95 for non-members. First time guests are welcome at no cost.**