



BOUNDARIES IN QUESTION BORDER WALLS

Friday 29 November

The poet Robert Frost in his marvellous poem 'Mending Wall' included these deceptively simple lines: 'Before I built a wall I'd ask to know, What I was walling in or walling out, And to whom I was like to give offence.' At a time when walls are once again being erected and the subject of much public debate, we explore their history, ask how they were built, what they have been for, and if they have succeeded in their intended function. We look at walls as enclosures, as in 10c BC Jericho, the mighty Iron Age Maiden Castle in Dorset, Roman and medieval cities, the great 14c walls of Ston in southern Croatia or those of the Kremlin, and ghetto walls dividing off the Jewish population; walls as boundary separations, such as the Great Wall of China built from the 7c BC onwards, the Roman boundary walls installed in Britain first by Hadrian and then by Antoninus in the 2c AD, the 6c AD Great Wall of Gorgan in Iran, Offa's Dyke, the wall dividing Egypt and the Gaza strip or that just outside Jerusalem separating Israelis from Palestinians. We look at walls as religious symbols, such as the Western Wall in Jerusalem, derogated as 'The Wailing Wall', or those which are depicted in paintings as enclosing the 'hortus conclusus' of the Virgin Mary; and how walls may take on political significance, such as the wall of the 1871 Communards in Paris, the Berlin Wall, or Trump's wall across the southern boundary of the United States.

All **Culture in Question** lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lecture begins at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. The event ends by 3.30 p.m.

£85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members.