

Early Christian Rome

Date/Time	Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 November 2020 11am-12pm	Price	£30
Venue	Online	Lecturer	John McNeill

Imperial capital until the early fourth century and home to the papacy, Rome was the city where Octavian was proclaimed Augustus and SS Peter and Paul were martyred. This online study event considers how Rome became a Christian city. The very earliest Christian art and architecture emerged, almost imperceptibly, out of the allusive religious art of the eastern Mediterranean. Its forms often amounted to no more than simple signs and inscriptions, and its monuments were almost invisible to view – an ordinary house front, an underground burial chamber. Constantine's granting of a legal personality to the Church in 313 changed that. Henceforth, a public monumental Christian art and architecture was possible, and was actively embraced as vast ecclesiastical building projects transformed the city. This online study event is arranged as three one-hour lectures, which respectively discuss the emergence of Christian imagery in the catacombs between c.250 and c.400 AD, the development of ecclesiastical building types such as basilicas, baptisteries and martyria, and the birth of Christian narrative art.

Lectures

Wednesday 11 November 2020, 11am-12pm

The Catacombs: Planning and Painting

Wednesday 18 November 2020, 11am-12pm

Architecture in Rome from Constantine to Pope Honorius I (625-38)the

Wednesday 25 November 2020, 11am-12pm

Monumental Imagery: Apse mosaics and the emergence of Narrative Painting c.350-c.650

Lecturer

John McNeill lectures for the Department of Continuing Education at Oxford University and is a Vice-President of the London Art History Society. He is the Honorary Secretary of the British Archaeological Association, for whom he has edited and contributed to volumes on English medieval cloisters, chantries and Romanesque material culture. He has a longstanding interest in Rome and early Christian culture.