



THE ARTIST IN QUESTION **JAN OR HUBERT VAN EYCK?**

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

Ranked among one of history's greatest paintings the magnificent 15c Flemish Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, popularly known as the Ghent Altarpiece, may have been painted by Jan van Eyck or by his brother, Hubert van Eyck, or neither, or both. Large and complex, it is composed of 20 images on 12 panels, eight of which are hinged shutters painted on both sides. Attribution of the commission to the van Eyck brothers has been established through the small amount of surviving documentary evidence and from Jan's signature and dating on a reverse frame. Although there have been extensive attempts to isolate panels attributable to either brother, no positive separate identification has been convincingly established. As there is no surviving work attributed to Hubert it has been impossible to confidently detect his style. Instead, art historians have resorted to comparing individual passages to known works by Jan, but the polyptych differs in a number of significant aspects to the other paintings generally attributed to him. In this ARTIST IN QUESTION study day we will undertake our own armchair detective work to examine every inch of the Altarpiece. Thanks to the combined and generous funding for the past five years by the Belgium government, the John Paul Getty Foundation and a score of other sponsors the entire work has been dismantled, cleaned and photographed centimetre by centimetre at extremely high resolution with digital "cameras" in 100 billion pixels! In this first of its kind INSCAPE study day we will roam over the intricate, breathtaking details of the entire Ghent Altarpiece. Like deep-sea divers we will even see beneath the work's surface to its very underpainting.

All *Culture in Question* lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Bloomsbury. 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. Cost: £85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members. First time guests are welcome at no cost.