



## THE PHILOSOPHER IN QUESTION **PLATO**

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER

There could be no better introduction to Plato than that from the Stanford University Philosophy Department: 'Plato (429?–347 B.C.E.) is, by any reckoning, one of the most dazzling writers in the Western literary tradition and one of the most penetrating, wide-ranging, and influential authors in the history of philosophy. An Athenian citizen of high status, he displays in his works his absorption in the political events and intellectual movements of his time, but the questions he raises are so profound and the strategies he uses for tackling them so richly provocative that readers of nearly every period have in some way been influenced by him, and in practically every age there have been philosophers who count themselves Platonists in some important respects. He was not the first thinker or writer to whom the word "philosopher" should be applied. But he was so self-conscious about how philosophy should be conceived, and what its scope and ambitions properly are, and he so transformed the intellectual currents with which he grappled, that the subject of philosophy, as it is often conceived—a rigorous and systematic examination of ethical, political, metaphysical, and epistemological issues, armed with a distinctive method—can be called his invention. Few other authors in the history of Western philosophy approximate him in depth and range: perhaps only Aristotle (who studied with him), Aquinas, and Kant would be generally agreed to be of the same rank'.

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.