

Unboxing the Canon—Episode 4—"Swallowed Whole"
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Created by Linda Steer

In this episode, called "Swallowed Whole," Dr. Steer considers Gothic cathedrals as an art form and examines their relationship to European power structures. The episode begins with the earliest Christian art, in the catacombs of Rome, and ends with a brief consideration of the role and function of Western European churches today. This episode also covers the important role of relics in Medieval Christianity, the rise of pilgrimage culture in Europe and its connections to economics and architectural innovation, as well as the affective impact of the interior spaces of cathedrals.

Sources + further reading:

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Harris, Beth and Steven Zucker. "Cathedral of Notre Dame de Chartres." in Smarthistory, December 18, 2015. <https://smarthistory.org/cathedral-of-notre-dame-de-chartres-part-1-of-3/>.

"Medieval Chartres- The North Transept Rose Window." <http://www.medart.pitt.edu/image/France/Chartres/Chartres-Cathedral/Windows/Transept-windows/121A-North-Rose/Chartres-121NorthRose.HTM>.

"More Oude Kerk - Amsterdam Art." <https://www.amsterdamart.com/events/516/more-oude-kerk>.

Oude kerk. "Sarah van Sonsbeeck." <https://oudekerk.nl/en/programma/sarah-van-sonsbeeck/>.

Sorabella, Jean. "Pilgrimage in Medieval Europe." The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pilg/hd_pilg.htm.

“Visit the Catacombs.” http://www.catacombepriscilla.com/visita_catacomba_en.html.

Credits:

Unboxing the Canon is hosted and produced by Linda Steer for her course “Introduction to the History of Western Art” in the Department of Visual Arts at Brock University. Brock University is located on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

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