

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**John Osborne**

**Distinguished Research Professor and Dean Emeritus, Carleton University,  
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### Education

B.A.	Art History	Carleton University	1973
M.A.	Medieval Studies	University of Toronto	1974
Ph.D.	History of Art	University of London	1979

### Academic Positions

1979-2001	University of Victoria, Victoria, BC
	1979-1984 Assistant Professor
	1984-1989 Associate Professor
	1989-2001 Professor
	1983-1984 Acting Chair, History in Art
	1986-1991 Chair, History in Art
	1993-1996 Director, Medieval Studies
2001-2005	Queen's University, Kingston, ON
	2001-2005 Professor and Head, Dept. of Art
2005-2017	Carleton University, Ottawa, ON
	2005-2015 Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
	2005-2017 Professor, School for Studies in Art and Culture, and College of the Humanities
2017-	Dean Emeritus, Carleton University Distinguished Research Professor, Carleton University
2021-	Associate Fellow, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto

**Professional Honours**

Rome Scholarship, The British School at Rome (1978-79)

Visiting Fellow, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (1985)

Venice Fellowship, Istituto Ellenico di Studi Bizantini e Postbizantini di Venezia (1992)

Summer Fellowship, Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, Washington (1992)

Honorary Fellow, The British School at Rome (2006)

Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (2013)

Balsdon Fellowship, The British School at Rome (2018)

Honorary Research Fellow, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London (2019-24)

Margaret Wade Labarge Book Prize, Canadian Society of Medievalists (2021)

Premio Daria Borghese, Gruppo dei Romanisti (2024)

## **Publications**

### **2025**

*Rome in the Tenth Century: a history in art* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Linda Safran and John Osborne, “An exceptional Early Byzantine censer in Antalya”, *Gesta* 64.1 (2025), 1–20.

### **2024**

“Forgotten Friars. The Visual Culture of Giovanni Colombini and the Apostolic Clerics of Saint Jerome (the Jesuati)”, *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 87 (2024), 1–25.

### **2023**

*Rome in the Ninth Century: a history in art* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).  
[awarded the 2024 *Premio Daria Borghese*]

“The relic lists of Sant'Angelo in Pescheria and San Silvestro in Capite: Documenting a shift in the cult of the saints in eighth-century Rome”, *Importreliquien in Rom von Damasus I. bis Paschalis I.*, eds. A. Breckenkamp, T. Michalsky, N. Zimmermann, Palilia 36 (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag), 57–67

Review of Chiara Bordino, Chiara Croci, and Vedran Sulovsky, eds., Rome on the Borders: Visual Cultures during the Carolingian Transition, in *Speculum* 98: 225–27

Review of Paolo Delogu, Roma all’inizio del Medioevo. Storie, luoghi, persone (secoli VI–IX), in *Early Medieval Europe* 31: 675–78

### **2022**

John Osborne and Peter Smeaton, *Out of the Studio: the photographic innovations of Charles and John Smeaton at home and abroad* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press).

“‘Coils of Sunshine’: Charles Smeaton’s magnesium-wire photography in the catacombs of Rome, 1866–1867”, *Scientia Canadensis* 44.1: 1–18  
<https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/scientia/2022-v44-n1-scientia07177/>

Review of Francesca Dell’Acqua, Iconophilia. Politics, Religion, Preaching, and the Use of Images in Rome, c. 680–880, in *Early Medieval Europe* 30: 296–98

### **2021**

*Santa Maria Antiqua: The Sistine Chapel of the Early Middle Ages*, E. Rubery, G. Bordini, J. Osborne (eds.), (Turnhout: Harvey Miller Publishers/Brepols)

“The dower charter of Otto II and Theophanu, and the Roman scriptorium at Santi Apostoli”, *Papers of the British School at Rome* 89: 137–57

“Slavery and its terminology in eighth-century Rome”, *Frühmittelalterliche Studien* 55: 47–59

“Urban picturesque: John James Browne and the fire stations of Montréal”, *Journal of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada* 46: 4–13

“The thirteenth-century expansion of the narthex of San Marco, Venice: a space for dead dogs?”, *Art and Material Culture in the Byzantine and Islamic Worlds. Studies in Honour of Erica Cruikshank Dodd*, E.

Baboula and L. Jessop (eds.) (Leiden and Boston: Brill), 55–88

“The re-invention of Rome in the early Middle Ages”, *Urban Developments in Late Antique and Medieval Rome: Revising the Narrative of Renewal*, G. Kalas and A. van Dijk (eds.) (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press), 205–35

“Per Jonas Nordhagen, Santa Maria Antiqua, and the study of early medieval painting in Rome”, *Santa Maria Antiqua: The Sistine Chapel of the Early Middle Ages*, E. Rubery, G. Bordi, J. Osborne (eds.) (Turnhout: Harvey Miller/Brepols), 146–57

“Pope Urban V and the Habit of the Jesuati”, ‘Close Reading’: *Kunsthistorische Interpretationen vom Mittelalter bis in die Moderne (Festschrift für Sebastian Schütze)*, S. Albi, B. Hub, A. Frasca-Rath (eds.) (Berlin: De Gruyter), 36–43

## 2020

*Rome in the Eighth Century: a history in art* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)  
[awarded the 2021 Margaret Wade Labarge Book Prize of the Canadian Society of Medievalists]

“The elephant in the room (at Notre-Dame de Gourdon, Burgundy)”, *A Medieval Legacy: The ongoing life of forms in the built environment. Essays in honour of Professor Malcolm Thurlby*, J. Mace (ed.) (Montreal, 2020), 15–28. Reprinted in *Florilegium* 36 (2019) [2023]: 182–203

## 2017

Review of Erik Thunø, *The Apse Mosaic in Early Medieval Rome: Time, Network, and Repetition*, in *Speculum* 92: 906–08

Review of Hendrik Dey, *The Afterlife of the Roman City: Architecture and Ceremony in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, in *Early Medieval Europe* 25: 534–36

## 2016

“‘An Incident in the Catacombs’: Charles Smeaton and Photography in the Catacomb of Priscilla, January 1867”, *Rivista di Archeologia Cristiana* 92: 349–64

## 2014

“Rome and Constantinople about the year 700: the significance of the recently uncovered mural in the narthex of Santa Sabina”, *L’officina dello sguardo: scritti in onore di Maria Andaloro*, G. Bordi et al. (eds.), (Rome: Gangemi editore), I, 329–34

## 2013

*Old Saint Peter’s, Rome*, R. McKitterick, J. Osborne, C. Richardson, J. Story (eds.) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

“Plus Caesare Petrus: the Vatican obelisk and the approach to St Peter’s”, *Old St Peter’s, Rome*, R. McKitterick, J. Osborne, C. Richardson, J. Story (eds.) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 274–86

Exhibition review: “Florence at the Dawn of the Renaissance: Painting and Illumination, 1300–1350” (Art Gallery of Ontario, 16 March–16 June 2013), in *The Burlington Magazine* 155: 441–42

## 2012

“A possible Colonna family ‘stemma’ in the church of Santa Prassede, Rome”, *A Wider Trecento: Studies in 13<sup>th</sup>- and 14<sup>th</sup>-century European Art presented to Julian Gardner*, L. Bourdua, R. Gibbs (eds.) (Leiden: Brill), 21–30

Review of Julian Gardner, Giotto and his Publics: Three Paradigms of Patronage, in *The Burlington Magazine* 154: 848

## 2011

*Rome Across Time and Space: Cultural Transmission and the Exchange of Ideas c. 500–1400*, C. Bolgia, R. McKitterick, J. Osborne (eds.) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

“The early medieval painting of St Augustine in the Lateran Palace”, ‘*Marmoribus vestita*’: *Miscellanea in onore di Federico Guidobaldi*, O. Brandt and P. Pergola (eds.) (Vatican City: Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana), 993–1002

“Rome and Constantinople in the ninth century”, *Rome Across Time and Space: Cultural Transmission and the Exchange of Ideas, c. 500–1400*, C. Bolgia, R. McKitterick, J. Osborne (eds.) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 222–26

## 2010

Review of Michael Sundell, Mosaics in the Eternal City, in *Speculum* 85: 201–03

## 2009

Review of Andrew Ladis, Giotto’s O: Narrative, Figuration, and Pictorial Ingenuity in the Arena Chapel; Anne Derbes and Mark Sandona, The Usurer’s Heart: Giotto, Enrico Scrovegni, and the Arena Chapel in Padua; Laura Jacobus, Giotto and the Arena Chapel: Art, Architecture & Experience; and Chiara Frugoni, L’affaire migliore di Enrico. Giotto e la Cappella Scrovegni, in *The Burlington Magazine* 151: 697–99

Review of P.J.P. Goldberg (ed.), Richard Scrope: Archbishop, Rebel, Martyr, in *The Catholic Historical Review* 95: 143–44.

## 2008

“The Jerusalem Temple treasure and the church of Santi Cosma e Damiano in Rome”, *Papers of the British School at Rome* 76: 173–81

“The Cult of Maria Regina in Early Medieval Rome”, *Acta ad archaeologiam et artium historiam pertinentia* [Norwegian Institute in Rome] 21: 95–106

Review of M. Andaloro (ed.), La Pittura Medievale a Roma, 312-1431. Corpus e Atlante. Atlante Vol. I: Vaticano, Suburbio, Rione Monti; M. Andaloro (ed.), Corpus Vol. I: L’orizzonte tardoantico e le nuove immagini, 312–468; and S. Romano (ed.), Corpus Vol. IV: Riforma e tradizione, 1050–1198, in *The Burlington Magazine* 150: 687–88

## 2007

Andrea Terry and John Osborne, “*Un canadien errant: Charles Smeaton and the earliest photographs of the Roman Catacombs*”, *RACAR* 32: 94–106

“The dado as a site of meaning in Roman mural paintings ca. 1100”, *Roma e la Riforma gregoriana. Tradizioni e innovazioni artistiche (XI-XII secolo)*, S. Romano and J. Enckell Julliard (eds.) (Rome: Viella), 275–88

"Dating medieval mural paintings in Rome: a case study from San Lorenzo fuori le mura", *Roma Felix—Formation and Reflections of Medieval Rome*, É. Ó Carragáin and C. Neuman de Vegvar (eds.) (Aldershot: Ashgate), 191–206

Review of Bissera Pentcheva, *Icons and Power: The Mother of God in Byzantium* in *Speculum* 82: 749–50

## 2006

"St Peter's Needle and the ashes of Julius Caesar: invoking Rome's imperial history at the papal court, ca. 1100-1300", *Julius Caesar in Western Culture*, M. Wyke (ed.) (Oxford: Blackwell, 95–109

Review of Jill Caskey, *Art and Patronage in the Medieval Mediterranean: Merchant Culture in the Region of Amalfi* in *University of Toronto Quarterly* 75: 236–38

## 2005

"Leonard Boyle and the Lower Church of San Clemente, Rome", 'Omnia disce'--*Medieval Studies in Memory of Leonard Boyle, O.P.*, A. Duggan, J. Greatrex, B. Bolton (eds.) (Aldershot: Ashgate), 3–8

## 2004

*Santa Maria Antiqua al Foro Romano cento anni dopo. Atti del colloquio internazionale, Roma, 5-6 maggio 2000*, J. Osborne, J.R. Brandt, G. Morganti (eds.) (Rome: Campisano)

"Framing Sacred Space: eleventh-century mural painting in the churches of Rome", *Analecta Romana Instituti Danici* 30: 137–51.

"Dado imagery in the lower church of San Clemente, Rome, and Santa Maria Immacolata at Ceri", *Shaping Sacred Space and Institutional Identity in Romanesque Mural Painting. Essays in Honour of Otto Demus*, T. Dale and J. Mitchell (eds.) (London: Pindar Press), 35–50

Review of Anne Derbes and Mark Sandona, *The Cambridge Companion to Giotto* in *The Burlington Magazine* 146: 694–95

## 2003

"The dado programme in Giotto's Arena Chapel and its Italian Romanesque antecedents", *The Burlington Magazine* 145: 361–65

"Papal Court Culture during the Pontificate of Zacharias (AD 741-752)", *Court Culture in the Early Middle Ages*, C. Cubitt (ed.) (Turnhout: Brepols), 223–34

"Images of the Mother of God in early medieval Rome", *Icon and Word: The Power of Images in Byzantium. Studies presented to Robin Cormack*, A. Eastmond and L. James (eds.) (Aldershot: Ashgate), 135–56

"Some Reflections on Medieval Studies in Canada", *Florilegium* 20: 11–13.

## 2002

Review of Herbert Kessler and Johanna Zacharias, *Rome 1300: On the Path of the Pilgrim* in *CAA Reviews* [on-line journal: <http://www.caareviews.org/reviews/kesslerzacharias.html> -- posted 20 September 2002]

## 2001

"Artistic contacts between Rome and Constantinople in the years following the triumph of orthodoxy (AD

843)", *L'ellenismo italiota dal VII al XII secolo*, N. Oikonomides (ed.) (Athens: Ethniko Hidryma Ereunōn), 261–72

"The artistic culture of early medieval Rome: a research agenda for the 21st Century", *Roma nell'alto medioevo* [Settimane di Studio del Centro Italiano di Studi sull'Alto Medioevo, XLVII] (Spoleto: CISAM), 693–711

Review of Debra Pincus, the Tombs of the Doges of Venice in *RACAR* 25 (1998) [2001]: 129–31

Review of Jens Wollesen, Pictures and Reality: Monumental Frescoes and Mosaics in Rome around 1300, in *The Catholic Historical Review* 87: 95–96

Review of Leslie Brubaker, Vision and Reality in ninth-century Byzantium: Image as Exegesis in the Homilies of Gregory of Nazianzus in *Early Medieval Europe* 10: 121–22

contributor to exhibition catalogue: *Ostia, port et porte de la Rome antique* (Geneva: Musée Rath)

## 2000

David Buckton and John Osborne, "The enamel of Doge Ordelaaffo Falier on the Pala d'Oro in Venice", *Gesta* 39: 43–49

"Politics and Popular Piety in fifteenth-century Yorkshire: Images of 'St' Richard Scrope in the Bolton Hours", *Florilegium* 17: 1–19

## 1999

"Politics, diplomacy and the cult of relics in Venice and the northern Adriatic in the first half of the ninth century", *Early Medieval Europe* 8: 369–86

## 1998

John Osborne and Amanda Claridge, *The Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo, Series A, Part II. Early Christian and Medieval Antiquities. Volume 2: Other Mosaics, Paintings, Sarcophagi, and Small Objects* (London: Harvey Miller)

Review of Thomas Dale, Relics, Prayer, and Politics in Medieval Venetia: Romanesque Painting in the Crypt of Aquileia Cathedral in *RACAR* 23 (1996) [1998]: 113–16

## 1997

"Proclamations of Power and Presence: The Setting and Function of Two Eleventh-Century Mural Decorations in the Lower Church of San Clemente, Rome", *Mediaeval Studies* 59: 155–72

"The 'cross-under-arch' motif in ninth-century Venetian sculpture: an imperial reading", *Thesaurismata* 27: 7–18

"The early medieval sculpture" in T.W. Potter and A.C. King (eds.), *Excavations at the Mola di Monte Gelato: A Roman and medieval Settlement in South Etruria* [Archaeological Monographs of the British School at Rome, 11] (London: The British School at Rome), 217–28

"The sources of ornamental motifs in the mural decorations of early medieval Rome: some preliminary observations", in *L'ornement dans la peinture murale du Moyen Age (Actes du colloque tenu à Saint-Lizier du 1<sup>er</sup> au 4 juin 1995)* (Poitiers: Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale), 27–34

Review of John Julius Norwich, A Short History of Byzantium, in *Queen's Quarterly* 104: 635–43

**1996**

John Osborne and Amanda Claridge, *The Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo. Series A, Part II. Early Christian and Medieval Antiquities. Volume 1: Mosaics and Wallpaintings in Roman Churches* (London: Harvey Miller)

"A Tale of Two Cities: Sacred Geography in Christian Jerusalem", *Queen's Quarterly* 103: 741–49.

*The Dictionary of Art*, 34 vols (London: Macmillan): entries on "Catacomb" (6: 69–71); "Rome: Catacombs" (26: 798–99); "Rome: S. Clemente, lower church, decoration" (26: 825–26); and "Rome: S. Maria Antiqua" (26: 830–31). [updated April 2016 for *Grove Art Online*]

*An Encyclopedia of the History of Classical Archaeology* (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press): entries on "Einsiedeln Itinerary" (386–87); and "Magister Gregorius" (538–40)

Review of Cathleen Hoeniger, *The Restoration of Paintings in Tuscany, 1250–1500*, in *Queen's Quarterly* 103: 166–71

**1995**

"The hagiographic programme of the mosaics in the south dome of San Marco at Venice", *RACAR* 22: 19–28

**1994**

"A Carolingian 'Agnus Dei' relief from Mola di Monte Gelato, near Rome", *Gesta* 33: 73–78

"New evidence for the mural decorations in the apse of S. Pellegrino in Naumachia", *Bollettino dei Monumenti Musei e Gallerie Pontificie* 14: 103–11

Review of Philip Jacks, *The Antiquarian and the Myth of Antiquity: the Origins of Rome in Renaissance Thought*, in *Echos du Monde Antique/Classical Views* 38: 455–58

**1993**

"New evidence for a lost portrait of the family of Michael VIII Palaiologos", *Thesaurismata* 23: 9–13

contributor to exhibition catalogue: *The Paper Museum of Cassiano dal Pozzo* (London: The British Library)

**1992**

"Textiles and their painted imitations in early medieval Rome", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 60: 309–51

**1991**

*Rome: Tradition, Innovation and Renewal: A Canadian International Art History Conference, Rome 8–13 June 1987*, C. Brown, J. Osborne, C. Kirwin (eds.) (Victoria, BC: University of Victoria)

"A drawing of a consular diptych of Anastasius (AD 517) in the collection of Cassiano dal Pozzo", *Echos du Monde Classique/Classical Views* 35: 237–42

"Lost Roman images of Pope Urban V (1362–1370)", *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte* 57: 20–32



**1990**

"The use of painted initials by Greek and Latin scriptoria in Carolingian Rome", *Gesta* 29: 76–85

**1989**

"Wall-paintings as documents: an example from the atrium of S. Maria Antiqua, Rome", *RACAR* 16: 7–11

Review of Charles McClendon, The Imperial Abbey of Farfa, in *The Catholic Historical Review* 75: 134–36

**1988**

"A note on the medieval name of the so-called 'Temple of Fortuna Virilis' at Rome", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 56: 210–12

**1987**

*Master Gregorius: The Marvels of Rome* [translated with an introduction and commentary] (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)  
[translation partially reprinted in *Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages: A Reader*, B.E. Whalen (ed.) (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011), 241–48]

"The atrium of S. Maria Antiqua, Rome: a history in art", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 55: 186–223

**1986**

"Peter's Grain Heap: a medieval view of the 'Meta Romuli'", *Echos du Monde Classique/Classical Views* 30: 111–18

contributor to exhibition catalogue: *Canada Collects the Middle Ages* (Regina, SK: Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery)

**1985**

"The Roman catacombs in the Middle Ages", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 53: 278–328

"Early mediaeval wall-painting in the Roman catacombs: patronage and function", *RACAR* 12: 197–200

"Were the Roman catacombs abandoned in the ninth century A.D.?", *Transactions of the Third Canadian Conference of Medieval Art Historians* (London, ON: University of Western Ontario), 7–13

David Whitehouse, Henry Hurst, and John Osborne, "Santa Maria Antiqua: problemi e proposte", *Roma. Archeologia nel centro* (Rome: Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma), I, 93–96

contributor to exhibition catalogue: *The Malcove Collection: A Catalogue of the Objects in the Lillian Malcove Collection of the University of Toronto*, S. Campbell (ed.) (Toronto: University of Toronto Press)

**1984**

*Early Mediaeval Wall-Painting in the Lower Church of San Clemente, Rome*  
(New York: Garland Press)

"Death and burial in sixth-century Rome", *Echos du Monde Classique/Classical Views* 28: 291–99.

**1983**

"The earliest antiquarian description of Caracalla's Sarapeum on the Quirinal Hill in Rome", *Echos du Monde Classique/Classical Views* 27: 220–25

—

"The tomb of Alfani in S. Maria in Cosmedin, Rome, and its place in the tradition of Roman funerary monuments", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 51: 240–47

**1982**

"Early medieval wall-painting in the church of San Clemente, Rome: the Libertinus cycle and its date", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 45: 182–85

"From Turtura to Alfani: funerary monuments in early medieval Rome", *RACAR* 9: 3–8

"The Christological scenes in the nave of the lower church of San Clemente, Rome", *Medieval Lazio: Studies in Architecture, Painting and Ceramics*, ed. D. Whitehouse [BAR International Series, vol. 125] (Oxford, British Archaeological Reports), 237–85

"Notes on early medieval wall-painting in Lazio: 1. The Catacomb of San Senatore at Albano; 2. Zagarolo", *Medieval Lazio: Studies in Architecture, Painting and Ceramics*, ed. D. Whitehouse [BAR International Series, vol. 125] (Oxford: British Archaeological Reports), 287–97

Review of Richard Krautheimer, Rome. Profile of a City, 312-1308, in *RACAR* 9: 117–18

**1981**

"The 'Particular Judgment': an early medieval wall-painting in the lower church of San Clemente, Rome", *The Burlington Magazine* 123: 335–41

"The painting of the Anastasis in the lower church of San Clemente, Rome: a re-examination of the evidence for the location of the tomb of St. Cyril", *Byzantion* 51: 255–87

"A note on the date of the Sacra Parallela (Parisinus graecus 923)", *Byzantion* 51: 316–17

"Early medieval painting in San Clemente, Rome: the Madonna and Child in the niche", *Gesta* 20: 299–310.

"Early medieval wall-paintings in the Catacomb of San Valentino, Rome", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 49: 82–90

**1979**

"The portrait of pope Leo IV in San Clemente, Rome: a re-examination of the so-called 'square nimbus' in medieval art", *Papers of the British School at Rome* 47: 58–65