

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Katie Ziglar  
(202) 842-6353

## OLEG GRABAR TO DELIVER 1989 ANDREW W. MELLON LECTURES

Washington, D.C., April 17, 1989 - Oleg Grabar, a distinguished scholar of Islamic art and architecture will be the National Gallery's 1989 Andrew W. Mellon Lecturer in the Fine Arts. Professor Grabar will deliver a series of six lectures from April 23 through May 28.

Since 1952 the annual Mellon lecture series has served as a forum for an individual who exemplifies excellence in the history, criticism, and theory of the visual and performing arts. The lectures are published through the National Gallery of Art and Princeton University Press as part of the Bollingen Series.

The Sunday afternoon lectures will take place in the East Building Auditorium of the National Gallery at 4:00 p.m. and are open to the public at no charge. Professor Grabar's series is titled "Intermediary Demons: Toward a Theory of Ornament." Individual lectures are as follows:

April 23	A Theory of Demons: Ornament as Mediation
April 30	The Problems of Calligraphy
May 7	The Mediation of Writing
May 14	The Mediation of Geometry
May 21	The Mediation of Architecture
May 28	The Mediation of Vegetation

(more)

A leading scholar of Islamic art, and currently Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at Harvard University, Professor Grabar is internationally recognized for his distinguished career in teaching, scholarship, and archaeological expeditions. His most recent book, co-authored with the late Richard Ettinghausen, is entitled The Art and Architecture of Islam, 650-1250 (1989). It is part of the well-known Pelikan History of Art series. His other publications include The Formation of Islamic Art (1973); revised and enlarged edition (1987), a book widely considered a basic primer in the field.

Dr. Grabar has been a professor of fine arts at Harvard University since 1969, having taught at the University of Michigan from 1954 to 1967. Professor Grabar has served as Near Eastern editor of Ars Orientalis (1957-1970); Honorary Curator of Near Eastern Art, Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution (1958-1969); Secretary, American Research Institute in Turkey (1964-1969); and since 1978, Member of the Steering Committee, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Art and Architecture. He is also the founding editor of Muqarnas: An Annual on Islamic Art and Architecture. His many honors include the College Art Association Award for Teaching in the History of Art (1984), and a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1972).

Professor Grabar was born in Strasbourg, France in 1929. He received his academic degrees from Harvard University (B.A., Medieval History, 1950), the University of Paris (Certificats de licence, Medieval History and Modern History, 1950), and Princeton University (M.A., 1953, Ph.D., 1955, Oriental Languages and Literatures and History of Art).

Professor Grabar has supervised and narrated educational movies on Isfahan, The Art of the Persian Book, and Persian Presence in the United States. He most recently appeared on the SMITHSONIAN WORLD program, "The Vever Affair," produced for public television earlier this year by WETA, Washington, D.C. and the Smithsonian Institution in conjunction with the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery exhibition, A Jeweler's Eye: Islamic Arts of the Book from the Vever Collection.

#

#

#