



THE GHENT ALTARPIECE

ART, HISTORY,
SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Danny Praet & Maximilian P.J. Martens

The *Ghent Altarpiece* or the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, by the Van Eyck brothers (1432), is recognised worldwide as a great work of art, and one of the most influential paintings ever made. It was the world's first major oil painting, and it is laced with religious mysticism. The work almost reads like an A to Z of Christianity - from the Annunciation to the symbolic sacrifice of Christ, with the 'Mystic Lamb' on an altar in a heavenly meadow, bleeding into the Holy Grail.

For the first time, this book gathers together diverse insights on the *Ghent Altarpiece*, the monumental polyptych that the brothers

Hubert and Jan van Eyck realised with the assistance of a large workshop and advisers on the painting's subject matters. This book has the same aim: to bring together experts from the most diverse disciplines. Only by combining the perspectives of (art) historians, philosophers, religious studies scholars, mathematicians and specialists in optics can one fully understand the riches and depth of this masterpiece.

Lavishly illustrated, including details that have come to light using state-of-the-art techniques during the current conservation project and are not always visible to the naked eye.

