



*St Francis when young turning aside* (detail) 1972. tapestry, wool and cotton  
261 x 341 cm National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

The Arthur Boyd Tapestries  
of St Francis of Assisi

The Chapel of the Holy Spirit,  
Newman College  
The University of Melbourne

**The Arthur Boyd Tapestries  
of St Francis of Assisi  
The Chapel of the Holy Spirit,  
Newman College,  
The University of Melbourne**

2 November - 4 December 2009

Open 10am-5pm Monday - Friday (to 8pm Thursdays)  
887 Swanston Street Parkville

Weekend opening times vary,  
please phone 03 9342 1505 for details or see  
www.academiccentre.stmarys.newman.unimelb.edu.au

**Free entry**

This exhibition of a group of tapestries on the life of St Francis of Assisi, designed by the Australian artist, Arthur Boyd, celebrates the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the Franciscans and the influence of the Franciscan spirit worldwide. The tapestries, lent by the National Gallery of Australia, were produced by the Portuguese Workshop, Manufatura Tapeçarias de Portalegre, 1972-74, under Boyd's supervision. They have never been exhibited as a group.

The support of the National Gallery of Australia and the following donors is gratefully acknowledged.

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■ national gallery of **australia**



AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES



*The vision of the church on fire* 1974 tapestry, wool and cotton  
251.5 x 339.5 cm National Gallery of Australia, Canberra



*St Francis holding St Clare's hair* 1974 tapestry, wool and cotton  
263.5 x 343.5 cm National Gallery of Australia, Canberra



*St Clare showing her shaven head to her family* 1974 tapestry, wool and cotton  
248 x 339 cm National Gallery of Australia, Canberra



**Lecture Series**

Bookings: phone 03 9342 1614

agehrig@academiccentre.stmarys.newman.unimelb.edu.au

**Thursday 5 November, 5:45 – 7:15pm**

The Oratory, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street Parkville  
Dr Ursula Betka and Margaret Pont,  
**Saintly Identity in Medieval Art and the Tapestries of Arthur Boyd**

This joint session presents the Boyd tapestries against the background of the medieval origins of Saints Francis and Clare. Ursula Betka (La Trobe University) examines some of the ways in which these saints were represented in public art in the years immediately following their deaths.

Margaret Pont, author of *Arthur Boyd and Saint Francis of Assisi* (Macmillan Art Publishing, 2004), demonstrates how Boyd's interpretation, while based on the medieval legend, expresses the issues that appear elsewhere in his art, including sexuality and aggression as well as sacrifice and love.

**Thursday 12 November, 5:45 – 7:00pm**

The Oratory, Newman College, 887 Swanston Street Parkville  
Dr Sue Walker, **Australian Artists and Tapestry:  
From Assisi to Parliament House, Canberra**

A remarkable collaboration between a great architect, a great artist and thirteen weavers of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop lay behind the creation of the monumental tapestry that hangs in Parliament House Canberra. Said to be the second largest tapestry in the world and regarded today as a national icon it took five years from first discussions to final installation. Sue Walker, Foundation Director of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, will tell the story of this great work and explain its significance for the emerging tapestry industry in Australia.

**Thursday 19 November, 5:45 – 7:15pm**

The Frewin Room, St Mary's College, 871 Swanston Street Parkville  
Professor Jacques Dalarun

(Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris),  
**In the eyes of each other: Clare and Francis of Assisi**

This lecture is presented in association with the international conference: 'Interpreting St Francis and St Clare in a multi-religious society: from the middle ages to the present' (Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne College of Divinity, and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology Monash University).

**Arthur Boyd and Saint Francis of Assisi by Margaret Pont  
will be available for purchase at the exhibition**