

MASACCIO'S *TRINITY*

Masaccio's "Trinity" examines one of the defining paintings of the Italian Renaissance. Renowned for the grandeur of its characterizations, both sacred and mortal, for the perspectival illusion of its monumental architectural setting, and for its compelling depictions of a human skeleton, the fresco was famous from the time it was painted in the 1420s, and remembered despite its having been hidden from view for nearly two centuries. This volume considers the *Trinity* in its historical and spiritual contexts, its relation to the symbolism of the Trinity, and its liturgical function in the great Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella. Also emphasized are the extraordinary features of the painting, especially its system of spatial illusionism, its problematic state of conservation, and the conception of time and space that the artist masterfully visualized.

Rona Goffen is Distinguished Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She is the author of eight books, including *Giovanni Bellini* and *Titian's Women*, and editor of *Titian's "Venus of Urbino"* in the Masterpieces of Western Painting series.

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MASACCIO'S
TRINITY

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