

**Pere Beseran**

**From Window to Sepulcher – Franciscan Iconography in Catalonia (13th to 14th century)**

The new mendicant orders formed in the early thirteenth century took root in Catalonia rapidly, especially the Franciscans, which could be related to the passage of Saint Francis through the Catalan lands, as it is mentioned in different legends. Without doubt, despite the early date of many Franciscan foundations documented during the second quarter of the thirteenth century, the artistic production of the thirteenth century preserved in Catalonia is scarce and problematic. This is due to a combination of different circumstances: the continuing transformation of buildings over the centuries and the destruction of some of the most important foundations in the nineteenth century. New foundations of Franciscans and Poor Clares and the choice of churches as a place of their burial will forge new creative initiatives. Some gravestones are very significant and will take an important role in the corpus of figurative furnishing of the survived monuments. This is the case of the monastery of Pedralbes, royal foundation converted into retreat of the Queen Widow and configured as a set of monuments. Among the works kept in Pedralbes we can underline two groups of monuments of considerable interest: large windows of the monastic church, particularly the seven windows in the apse, and the tomb of Queen Elisenda de Moncada. In these monuments and in their iconographic programs the interest of the Catalan-Aragonese monarchy towards a renewed Franciscan spirituality, in which they intersect close personal, familiar and dynastic relationships, is clearly visible.