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## Illuminating the Dark Ages



Patrick Andrade for The New York Times

**Gallery for Western European Medieval Art** Students examine a 14th-century reliquary tabernacle in this renovated gallery at the Metropolitan Museum. [St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Harlem]  
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Of the three great artistic histories that extend for many centuries, and galleries, from the Great Hall at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Byzantine-Medieval epic is the most discreet. The Egyptian and the Greek and Roman wings are signaled by highly visible statues and tombs that start waving hello almost before you clear security. In contrast, the story of art starting in Bronze-Age Europe lies mostly out of sight in galleries that lie beside and behind the Grand Staircase.

Skip to next paragraph These days, if you stand in the right spot in the Great Hall and look down the broad corridor gallery on the right of the stairs, the unmistakable blaze of a tall, slim stained-glass window