

Lecture programme 2019

Thursday 24th January

Adam Busiakiewicz – The Lute within Old Master Paintings.

The lute holds a special place in the history of art: painters of the Italian Renaissance depicted golden-haired angels plucking its delicate strings, evoking celestial harmony; in the sixteenth century, during the rise of humanism, the lute was a becoming pastime of educated courtiers, as depicted by the likes of Holbein and Titian; throughout the seventeenth century, the instrument continued to play a key role in emphasising the intimate, debauched and transient pleasures of interior scenes by Jan Steen and portraits by Frans Hals. This lecture looks at the lute, and other musical instruments, as devices to express various aspects of the human character throughout the ages.

Thursday 28th February

Ian Keable – **The History of Cartoons**

The first time the word cartoon was used in the sense that we know it today was in 1843 in Punch magazine. But the employment of satire, caricature, speech bubbles and the writing of captions had been around long before then. In this talk Ian tracks the early stages of cartoons and how, through the works of Hogarth and James Gillray, they gradually evolved. Copious illustrations abound from the masters of their craft such as John Tenniel, John Leech, David Low, Vicky, Ronald Searle, Heath Robinson and Giles; and, bringing it right up to date, with Gerald Scarfe, Steven Bell and Peter Brookes.

Thursday 21st March

Lucrezia Walker - **Elisabeth Vigee Le Brun**

Elisabeth Vigee le Brun, her life and times, a painter to the Queen, and on the run after the French Revolution, painting for all the grandees of Continental Europe

Thursday 25th April

Tony Rawlins - **Mad Men and Artists: How the Advertising Industry exploited Fine Art**

Thursday 23rd May

Graham Griffiths - **The astonishing Master Mozart comes to London**

Illustrated at the piano with explanations and performances.

Thursday 27th June

Julia Musgrave - **Dali**

Like the Renaissance artists he admired, Salvador Dalí did not restrict his creative output to painting but was also a writer, poet, engraver, sculptor, architect, photographer, theatre designer, and jewellery designer. As well as designing the latter, Dalí selected the materials to be used, focusing not just on the colours or the value of the material, but also on their symbolic meanings. Jewels such as 'El cor reial' (1953, The Royal Heart) have become iconic works and are considered to be as exceptional

as his paintings. He also was an omnivorous reader who was as interested in science as he was in art and in this his work also reflects the Renaissance artist he admired. This lecture explores the work of Dalí the designer and science enthusiast – a Renaissance artist in the 20th century.

Thursday 26th September

Patsy Erskine-Hill - Convents and Courtesans.

Women's lives in pre-modern Venice. This lecture is based on extraordinary research showing how thousands of women were forced to enter convents against their will in order to save their families the cost of their dowries. This was matched by huge growth in the number and wealth of Venetian Courtesans, who flourished in this distorted society and who were notorious throughout Europe. Illustrated with paintings by Pietro Longhi, Gabriel Bella, Francesco Guardi and others.

Thursday 17th October

Jacqueline Cockburn - Picasso and his muses: l'amour fou

Thursday 28th November

Andrew Davies - Old Father Thames: The River in Art

From Canaletto to JMW Turner, from Whistler to Monet - the Thames has always fascinated English and foreign artists alike. The enchanting Frost Fairs, picturesque old London Bridge, punting and the Boat Race, Tower Bridge will all be featured.