

LECTURE LIST: 2015 – 2016 Season

21st October 2015

Abstract Expressionism: From the Sublime to the Political

Given by: Linda Smith

World War II caused huge upheavals in all parts of the world, and in all parts of society, including art. Many avant-garde artists had been forced to flee Europe and found themselves in the United States. This talk looks at the emergence of American Abstract Expressionism as the dominant style of the period, and the role it came to play in the Cold War.

Linda Smith holds two first-class degrees in Art History and is an experienced guide and lecturer at Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. She also lectures to secondary school audiences and independent arts societies.

18th November 2015

'Wonderful Things!' Tutankhamun's Tomb and Treasures

Given by: Lucia Gahlin

The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter in 1922 was arguably the greatest archaeological discovery of the twentieth century. The name of this boy-king conjures up wonderful imagery and mysterious tales of the pharaohs. This talk explores this unusual tomb and its iconic treasures, and discusses how it was found and what happened to the incredible wealth of funerary goods found inside.

Lucia Gahlin is an Egyptologist who works in museums and on excavations in Egypt, teaches Egyptology for the Universities of Exeter and Bristol, and amongst other things works for the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology in London..

9th December 2016 (2nd Wednesday)

Art Deco and all that Jazz

Given by: Eric Knowles

This lecture offers an overview of the style that emanated after the First World War as a reaction to Art Nouveau both in Europe and the USA. This was the age of Jazz, the Charleston and Hollywood. The sophisticated and glamorous French approach is discussed and contrasted with the minimalistic 'Modernist' interiors advocated by the Bauhaus in Germany. The talk also looks at jewellery, ceramics, glass, furniture, sculpture, posters and architecture.

We are delighted to welcome back Eric Knowles. With over twenty five years' experience lecturing to major museums and galleries around the world, and 30 years as an expert on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow, he is not only a knowledgeable lecturer, but also an engaging and entertaining speaker.

20th January 2016

A painter looks at Goya.

Given by: Ghislaine Howard

Goya, painter to the Spanish Crown and nobility is considered the last of the Old Masters and the first of the Modern Painters. He celebrates the dark joy of living; painting dream and reality and the places in-between with a sureness and a lushness of paint that has been the envy of artists ever since.

Ghislaine Howard is a painter of national reputation and was named as a Woman of The Year in 2008 for her contribution to art and society. She has published and exhibited widely, has had work in the Royal Collection and has had solo exhibitions at many prestigious venues. She is also an associate lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University.

17th February 2016

The Sumptuous World of Indian Textiles: From Punjab to the Coromandel Coast

Given by: Jasleen Kandhari

In this talk we will discover the regional variations of Indian textiles from the Punjab & Gujarat to Bengal & Coromandel Coast. Jasleen will bring samples of textiles with her to help us understand and appreciate the materials, production techniques and designs like the boteh or paisley motif in Kashmir shawls.

Jasleen Kandhari is a lecturer and tutor of Indian Art and Asian textiles for Oxford University's department of Continuing Education, the Ashmolean Museum of Art at Oxford University and Morley College. She was formerly Curator of Asian Collections at University of British Columbia, Museum of Anthropology in Canada, the British Museum and the British Library. In addition she has extensive lecturing experience at museums, universities and art societies including the British Museum, British Library, V&A, and many more

16th March 2016

The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Fabergé - before the Revolution

Given by: Toby Faber

Between 1885 and 1916, Carl Fabergé made fifty jewelled eggs – Easter presents from Russia's last two emperors to their wives. Given almost total artistic freedom, Fabergé and his designers had to conform to only three rules: that each year's Easter present should be egg-shaped, that it should contain some surprise to amuse or delight its recipient, and that it should be different from any predecessor. The result was a series of creations demonstrating ingenuity and creativity for which there are few parallels in any other field.

Toby Faber is part of the Faber and Faber publishing family and remains a board member. He has written two works of narrative history, one on Stradivarius and the other on Fabergé's Eggs. He has lectured on both these subjects at venues including the V&A Museum in London, The Library of Congress and the Huntington Library, as well as a number of literary festivals.

20th April 2016

Queen Victoria & Prince Albert: Patrons of the arts, art collectors and artists

Given by: Oliver Everett

This lecture will examine how Victoria and Albert were enthusiastic patrons of the arts throughout their marriage, commissioning and collecting works from both British and European artists. The talk also challenges the popular image of Victoria as a melancholy widow and reveals her as a passionate and open-minded young woman.

Oliver Everett is an old friend of the society. He was educated at Cambridge University and did post graduate work at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA; and at the London School of Economics. Following service in the Foreign Office, including postings in India and Spain, he was Assistant Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, and then Private Secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales. He was Librarian in the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, and is now Librarian Emeritus following his retirement in 2002. He lectures widely in Britain and abroad and also on cruise ships.

18th May 2016

Pop goes the artist: from Warhol to Dylan

Given by: Suzanne Fagence Cooper

In the sweltering heat of a New York summer, Andy Warhol invited Bob Dylan to his Factory sit for a screen test. It was 1965. After enduring his silent, slow-motion portrait, Dylan became intrigued by Warhol's monumental silver screenprint of Elvis dressed as a cowboy. He took it home as a souvenir, strapped to the top of a station-wagon. (It is now one of the highlights of the collection in MOMA, New York). This lecture examines the world of Pop Art, through the eyes of these controversial artists.

Suzanne Fagence Cooper studied History at Oxford University and Art History at the Courtauld Institute, and at Christie's Education. She has lectured for numerous organisations including the V&A, and on cruise liners, and undertaken broadcasts and consultancies for the BBC and Channel Four.