

Lecture Programme 2023/24

Registered Charity No 1068082

Tuesday 19 September 2023

The Sun King and the Court of Versailles

Jane Gardiner

This lecture will be an introduction to Versailles' sumptuous state apartments, its vast pavilions, the spectacular entertainments which took place both inside and outside, the collections of the King and the etiquette of life at one of the greatest courts in Europe.

Jane secured an MA in History of Art at London University and trained and continues to lecture at the V&A. She was senior lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art for 17 years.

Tuesday 17 October 2023

Brave New World –

Russell Nash

How the Arts and Culture Shaped Post War Britain

From the end of the War to the dawn of the Swinging Sixties art, architecture, fashion, film, music and theatre all changed drastically from the remaking of London and New Towns, 'Angry Young Men' as portrayed in theatre and in film, the birth of rock'n'roll to the new directions forged by the likes of Hepworth and Bacon. All was possible.

Russell trained and worked in theatre before becoming a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide and rekindling his love of art and art history and guiding in London's major galleries.

Tuesday 21 November 2023

Island Sanctuary:

Monica Bohm-Duchen

Refugee Artists in Britain from the Huguenots to the Present Day

War and displacement remain all too evident but art has had and still has its own relationship with war, displacement and adversity. This lecture is to celebrate and recognise the huge contribution of refugees from conflict zones around the world from miniaturist Isaac Oliver in the 16th Century to Lucian Freud in the 20th Century.

London-based Monica lectures widely, has written a number of Art based books and is the Initiator and Creative Director of the nationwide Insiders/Outsiders Arts Festival.

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Dick Whittington –

Simon Whitehouse

International Man of Myth and Myster(ie)

2023 marks the 600th anniversary of Dick Whittington's death. This lecture separates the very real man from the myth as one of the major movers and shakers of medieval London bankrolling no fewer than three kings.

Simon is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, presenter and award-winning London Blue Badge guide, working as a guide lecturer inter alia at the Globe and the National Gallery.

Tuesday 16 January 2024

What Really Happened on Easter Island

Dr Paul Bahn

Easter Island boasts an extraordinary Stone Age culture including hundreds of coastal stone platforms and over a thousand stone statues and the richest rock art in the Pacific and a unique writing system. Its discovery, its principal features and origins and what we have learnt of its rise and decline will be the essence of this talk.

Dr Bahn studied archaeology at Cambridge University and completed a PhD thesis on the prehistory of the French Pyrenees. Subsequent post-doctoral fellowships have primarily focused on prehistoric art, especially rock art of the world.

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Bound to Learn – A Brief History of Western Bookbinding **Caroline Bendix**

This lecture looks at western binding of the printed book, including the book trade and the practices and materials used, often recycled waste materials sometimes more valuable than the books themselves; all of which offers insight into both the bookbinders and their craft and the wealth and social station of the owners by whom they were commissioned.

Caroline is a library conservator and has worked on over 500 collections across the world. Since 1992 she has been the National Trust's Adviser on Libraries Conservation and is on the Archbishop of Canterbury's advisory panel for Lambeth Palace Library.

Tuesday 19 March 2023

Bruegel – The Seasons and the World

Gavin Plumley

In 1565 Pieter Bruegel created a series of paintings which charted the course of a year and changed the way we view the world and its landscape through art. This lecture explores how Bruegel pioneered our new way of thinking about the environment.

Gavin is a writer and broadcaster, appearing on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and contributing publications worldwide. His first book, 'A Home for all Seasons' was published in 2022.

Tuesday 16 April 2024

Life on a Harp String –

Margaret Watson

The History and Practical Issues of Performance

Offering an hour of information and entertainment Margaret delves into the 5000-year history of the harp, its development, design, music and lore. Boasting over 1400 working parts Margaret will inform on its design and development over the centuries including the lavishly decorated and fashion statement instruments made for Queen Antionette.

Margaret studied harp under the late Sidonie Goossens and is a Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers. She has played for Royalty, given concerts at National Trust Properties and played at many illustrious venues in London and at Glyndebourne Margaret is also a very active member of the charity 'Music in Hospitals'

Tuesday 14 May 2024

Shepard's War

James Campbell

This lecture examines E H Shepard's artistic journey through WWI from jocular cartoons for Punch to dark images of death and destruction and identifies a transition towards the simple economy of line and expression which exemplified the Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations.

James has an MA in the History of Art with a particular interest in the work of E H Shepard. He has been lecturing for over 20 years and is currently working on a joint biography of A A Milne and E H Shepard for the centenary of the Winnie-the-Pooh books.

Tuesday 18 June 2024

This is Wren –

Tony Tucker

The Classical, the Baroque and the City of London Churches

This lecture analyses Wren's life and research into the work of architects in Rome and Paris which influenced and inspired him. It features all his buildings in London, Oxford and Cambridge before focusing on his City of London churches.

Tony has an MA in Modern History from Oriel College Oxford, is a qualified City Guide and former Chairman of the City of London Guide Lecturers Association. His publications include 'The Visitor's Guide to the City of London Churches'.