

PROGRAMME **for 2022**

20th January

David Winpenny

Hackfall – A Landscape Back from the Brink

One of the great lost landscapes of England, Hackfall was praised by William Gilpin, recommended by Wordsworth, painted by Turner – and Catherine the Great had views of it on her Wedgwood dinner service.

This very early Romantic landscape was laid out a few miles from Ripon, by the Aislabie family, whose nearby Studley Royal estate is now a World Heritage Site. Hackfall was just as renowned until the 1930s, when the family sold the estate.



17th February

Simon Seligman

From Venice to Sheffield: John Ruskin's Passion for Art, Craft and Social Justice

This lecture celebrates the extraordinary life and work of this visionary Victorian. Perhaps most famous today as a champion of Turner and admirer of Venice, Ruskin's impact ranged far and wide; his ideas inspired the Arts and Crafts Movement and the founding of the National Trust, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and the Labour Movement.



17th March

Michael Parker

Architecture Aimed at Eternity – Sir Christopher Wren

Sir Christopher Wren was one of the most highly acclaimed English architects in history. He was accorded responsibility for rebuilding 52 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire in 1666, including what is regarded as his masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral, on Ludgate Hill, completed in 1710.



21st April

Rupert Dickens

Through a Glass Darkly – Vermeer and the Camera Obscura

The tranquil and meditative paintings of Johannes Vermeer are among the best-loved artworks in the world. Relatively little is known about the master from Delft but that has not deterred a torrent of publications about him, both fictional and scholarly. One of the most hotly debated topics in Vermeer literature is his supposed use of the camera obscura.





19th May 2022

Julia Musgrave

Salvador Dalí – 20th Century Renaissance Artist

‘The secret of my influence has always been that it remained secret’ – Salvador Dalí

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.**



16th June 2022

Paula Nuttall

Behind the Smile - The Story of the Mona Lisa

The Mona Lisa is one of the most iconic painting in Western Art. Painted in Florence in 1503, it accompanied Leonardo to France in 1517, eventually passing to the Louvre. But why did Leonardo keep this painting with him until his death? What is its place in the history of portraiture? And when did the Mona Lisa become an international celebrity? She has inspired artists and writers from Freud to Warhol, Dalí to Dan Brown, as well as **songs and films. She went on a ‘state visit’ to Washington and she has been vandalised and stolen.** This lecture looks at the reasons for her fame – and incidentally, explains why she is smiling!



15th September 2022

Nigel Bates

Tantrums and Tiaras – Behind the Scenes at the Royal Opera House

This lecture is a look at backstage life at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the pressures faced by performers, be they singer, dancer, conductor or musician. We see how the building copes with the demands of modern productions and examine audience expectations both inside the theatre and out. We also look at some of the highs and try to understand some of the lows that have been the fortune of this world-class performing venue over the years. Includes several performance video clips.

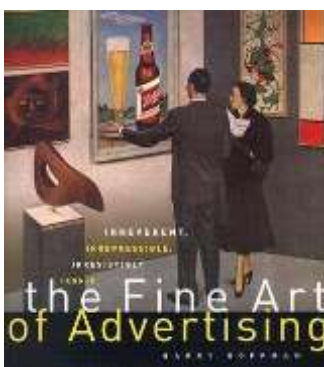


20th October 2022

Rupert Willoughby

Basingstoke and its Contribution to World Culture

One of the most derided towns in England, Rupert reveals the nobler Basingstoke that is buried beneath the concrete, and the few historic gems that have survived the holocaust. **Hilariously told, it is a story that neatly illustrates the ugliest episode in England’s architectural history.**



17th November 2022

Tony Rawlins

Mad Men and Artists

Fine art has provided advertisers and their agencies with a great deal of material to use in their creative campaigns.

Tony describes some of the processes by which these advertisements have been created and why the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo have been a particularly rich source. In an entertaining and informative lecture Tony uses a wide range of visuals and video to show examples of the original works, the creative process and the (not always entirely successful) advertisements that are the end result.