

THE ARTS SOCIETY BATH LECTURE PROGRAMME

2 October 2023

Lydia Bauman

Goya Portraits



Although better known for his famous social critique, the 'caprichos', Disasters of War series and the so-called Black Paintings, Goya's position as Painter to the King meant that he was primarily a very prolific portraitist. An astute and unsparing observer, his portraits of aristocrats, liberals, despots and friends map out a portrait of a Spanish society

fluctuating between Enlightenment and repression.

6 November 2023

Mark Cottle

A Photographic Odyssey – Shackleton's Expedition



On Ernest Shackleton's third Antarctic expedition in 1914, his ship, the Endurance, was trapped and crushed in the pack ice. His men rowed to Elephant Island and then he sailed for help to South Georgia over 800 miles away. Three months later he returned to rescue the crew. Frank Hurley, one of the great photographers of the 20th century, was the expedition's official photographer. His photographs are a visual

narrative of an epic journey which capture the amazing landscapes, as a remarkable human drama is played out.

4 December 2023

Roger Askew

The Very Model of English Entertainment - Gilbert & Sullivan



These two very different men, W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, came together under the guiding hand of the impresario, Richard D'Oyly Carte. The Savoy operas, with their gentle satire, celebrate the quirks and foibles of the British nation,

and are as alive today as in the 1880's. The lecture is illustrated with musical examples.

8 January 2024 (Zoom only) Lois Oliver

Berthe Morisot 'Une Finesse Fragonardienne'



Impressionist Berthe Morisot is known for her light-filled canvases of modern life: afternoons boating on a lake, young women in ballgowns, children playing. Renoir considered her "the last elegant and 'feminine' artist since Fragonard".

Complementing an exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery, this lecture traces Morisot's engagement with 18th century culture, and highlights what set her apart from her predecessors and contemporaries.

5 February 2024

Eileen Goulding

Understanding Aboriginal Culture



The indigenous population of Australia occupied the land for over 60,000 years in relative isolation. Discover their ancient traditions and how they've adapted to modern times since the arrival of Captain Cook.

4 March 2024

Scott Anderson

Chihuly and American Art Glass Movement



The Studio Glass Movement dates from 1962, with its emphasis on the aesthetics of form and colour.

Dale Chihuly became one of the foremost American Studio glass artists, and this talk considers his individual works and large-scale exhibitions, such as that in Kew Gardens in 2005 and 2019.

He established the blown-glass form as an accepted vehicle for installation and environmental art, begun in the late 20th century and continuing today.

15 April 2024

Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes

Whistler



James McNeill Whistler was a witty, irascible dandy who took pains to display his art in exactly the way he wanted. The lecture examines Whistler's painting techniques from early 'Rembrandtesque' portraits of his youth, his

realistic style influenced by Gustave Courbet, followed by his experiments with colour, form and texture for which he is best known today.

13 May 2024 Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe

Sir Anthony van Dyck



Sir Anthony van Dyck was the principal painter at the court of King Charles I and is regarded as the greatest painter in 17th century Britain. His portraits have shaped our view of the Stuart monarchy and the leading figures during political upheaval leading to the British Civil War. This lecture will examine the

'Flemishness' of his art and trace how it altered subtly to fit in with British tastes and expectations.

3 June 2024

Jonathan Foyle

Elizabethan Houses and the Transformation of England



The Elizabethan era saw the transformation of Britain's medieval dwellings into the basis of modern houses: chimneys, open staircases and glazing became the norm. From simple cottages through merchant's houses and great estates, we explore the

residences of Elizabeth herself. Underpinning the story is the social change wrought by the end of the monasteries, the growth of cities and the discovery of a world beyond our shores.