

January 10th

Mad Men and the Artists – how the advertising industry has exploited fine art.

Tony Rawlins

Fine art has provided advertisers and their agencies with a great deal of material to use in their creative campaigns. We learn how and why the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo have provided a particularly rich source.



June 13th

The Queen of Instruments: the Lute within Old Masters Paintings.

Adam Busiakiewicz

The lecture looks at the lute where it appears in paintings, and how it is used as a device to express various aspects of human character throughout the ages.

(Several pieces of live music will be performed as part of the lecture).



February 14th

Cosmonauts and Cotton-pickers – Soviet Central Asian Mosaics and the use of public art as propaganda.

Chris Alexander

This lecture explores both the birth of the Soviet mosaic from its roots in Islamic mosaics and Communist propagandist posters. Should they be preserved in post Soviet Central Asia?



July 11th

Belonging and Not Belonging: the Immigrant Experience in Modern British Art

Monica Bohm-Duchen

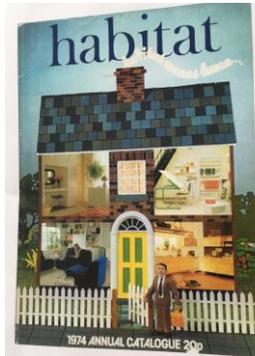
This lecture examines the experience, reception and contribution of émigré artists to this country. Artists to be discussed include Hans Holbein, Anthony van Dyck, David Bomberg and Mark Gertler, John Heartfield, Lucien Freud. Frank Auerback, Anish Kapoor and Yinka Shonibare.

March 14th

Habitat Catalogued – an Insider's story.

Caroline MacDonald-Haig

Terence Conran revolutionised British retailing when he opened his first Habitat store in 1964. His catalogues spread the word of this now classic lifestyle. Our lecturer worked for the catalogues with some of the best designers, art directors and photographers, and will give an insider's view of how Terence Conran's vision and determination changed the way we live now.



September 12th

Temples, Tombs and Treasures: in Search of the Queen of Sheba

Louise Schofield

In this lecture, Louise looks at how the Queen of Sheba has captured the imagination of great artists, inspired epic films and led archaeologists such as herself, to go in search of her land – a search that has led to major discoveries in both Yemen and Ethiopia, where Louise has been working since 2006.



April 11th

The Talent in Tite Street

Jennifer Toynbee-Holmes

London's Tite Street boasted a staggering amount of artistic talent. In just this one street in Chelsea lived James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Oscar Wilde, John Singer Sargent, Augustus John, Romaine Brooks and Gluck. This lecture ties together the private and professional lives of its inhabitants to form a colourful tapestry of art and intrigue.



October 10th

Sorolla Comes Back to London

Gail Turner

Joaquin Sorolla (1863-1923) was highly regarded internationally in his lifetime but is now largely forgotten outside Spain and the USA. Some of his best work is in his house and studio that he built in Madrid – one of the city's hidden secrets. He admired Velazquez and Goya but his delightful paintings of women and children at the seaside, and his great series depicting the regions of Spain are full of sunlight and optimism.



May 9th

Hester Thrale (1741-1820) friend of Samuel Johnson

Karin Fernald

Johnson, aged 56, is introduced to Hester, the literary, witty wife of brewer, Henry Thrale, and their friendship would last 17 years. The lecture charts the ups and downs of Hester's fascinating life, and includes paintings by Hogarth, Rowlandson, Reynolds and others.



November 14th

The Roaring Twenties: Art, Design and High Society

Jo Banham

This lecture aims to conjure up the energy and originality of the decade and to explore the lives of its leading figures and examples of its most innovative art and design.