

PROGRAMME 2020

January 9th

“Two Gustavs – Mahler and Klimt”

Gavin Plumley

Klimt and his colleagues broke away from the imperially endorsed art institutions in Vienna in 1897 and founded the Succession. That was the same year that Gustav Mahler arrived to take charge of the Opera House in the city. Comparing these two fin-de-siecle talents, this lecture places Klimt and Mahler in context, asking what fundamentally links and, indeed, divides them.

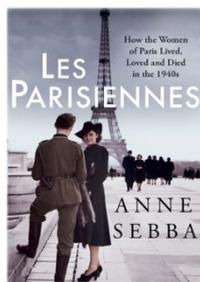


February 13th

“Les Parisiennes” – how women of Paris lived, loved and died in the 1940s

Anne Sebba

This is a story about women’s lives during the dark days of Nazi occupation and beyond. It includes British and American women caught in Paris, some of whom flourished in wartime, as well as actors, singers, nightclub dancers and housewives.



“Fascinating and beautifully written”
The Spectator

March 12th

“Regency Revelations – The Private Journal of a Regency Dandy”

Mark Hill (from Antiques Roadshow)

The first volume of the lost private diaries of John Margesson Esq. was discovered by chance, bought on eBay in 2010. This lively lecture researches the potentially scandalous story behind his mysterious exile to France and looks at his intimate and intensely personal musings on his daily life and current affairs.



ONE of the BAKERS of LONDON

April 9th

“Bernard Leach and his influence on 20th Century Studio Ceramics”

Diana Lloyd

Trained to be a potter in Japan, and with a deep intellectual desire to bring East and West together, the form and glazes often reflect his love of Asia. The importance of craftsmanship and the individual was vital to his teaching. His hectic exhibition schedule in the 1950s and 60s

was enormously important to the development of the “Studio Potter”.



May 14th

“Two Women who scandalised the Art World - Suzanne Valadon and the Marchesa Luisa Casati”

Julian Halsby

Suzanne, featured in works by Toulouse-Lautrec and Renoir, rose from the backstreets of Montmartre to exhibit her own modern paintings. Luisa, born into wealth, launched herself into a wild life in which she became a work of art. Painted by Boldini and Augustus John and photographed by Man Ray and Cecil Beaton, she became a fashion icon and legend in her own time.

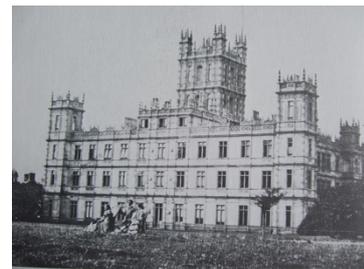


June 11th

“Downton Abbey Revealed: the story of Highclere Castle”.

Matthew Williams

The enormous success of the TV series ‘Downton Abbey’ has made its location one of the most recognisable buildings in the country. This lecture reveals that truth is more fascinating than fiction and tells the story of the Castle and its family, the Earls of Carnarvon.



July 9th

“Uncovering the Nation’s Hidden Oil Painting Collection”

Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac



In 2003 a project was set up to catalogue the UK’s collection of privately-owned oil paintings. It involved visiting over 3000 locations across the UK and photographing 212,000 paintings. This lecture offers an insider’s view of this ambitious and unique project.

September 10th

“A Garden Like No Other: Edward James & Las Posas”

James Russell

Hidden away in a dense subtropical forest, in the hills north of Mexico City, lies an enchanted valley in which strange ruins tower over waterfalls and pools. This colourful lecture tells the story of Edward James and Las Posas, introducing along the way an array of intriguing characters such as Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte, and exploring the wider theme of the modern artist-gardener.



October 8th

“Peggy Guggenheim”

Alexandra Epps

The ‘poor little rich girl’, who changed the face of 20th century art. Not only was Peggy ahead of her time, but she was the woman who helped define it. She discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Through collecting not only art, but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.



November 12th

“Played in London”

Simon Inglis

Charting the heritage of London’s rich sporting and recreational heritage to life. Wembley, Wimbledon and Lords are known around the world but sports and games have always been played in London. For the Tudors it was tennis at Hampton Court and jousting at Whitehall, and for the Victorians a network of suburban sports clubs and for every generation a battle to preserve open spaces.

