



Lecturer: Timothy Walker

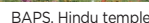
The much-loved Christmas Carol, 'the 12 Days of Christmas', was published in 1780. Apart from the pear tree, in which sat the partridge, no other gifts of plants appear in the song. And yet at Christmas we are surrounded by plants in our celebrations.

This entertaining lecture will look at the folklore, natural history and botany of 12 contemporary plants we use at Christmas ...to replace the leaping lords, partridges and gold rings!



Tuesday January 21 at 10.30am
BAPS, Hindu Temple, guided tour,
exhibition, Arti Ceremony

Come on a tour of this exquisite temple; a masterpiece of intricate Indian design and workmanship.



Thursday February 20 at 2.00pm
National Gallery interactive private
tour, looking at pictures in depth

Join our expert Jan Young for an in-depth discovery and explanation of major selected works.

Tuesday March 25 at 2.00pm
Royal Courts of Justice, private tour

Explore this well-known gothic London landmark. Learn about its history and famous cases.

Thursday May 15 at 11.00am
Middle Temple private tour and lunch in the Great Hall



Step into the fascinating cobbled lanes of this historic Inn of Court. Discover its history and enjoy the unique opportunity of lunching in London's finest Elizabethan hall.

Friday June 20 at 2.30pm
Whitechapel Walk with Stephen Burstin

Following on from our walk in the Jewish Quarter, Stephen Burstin will take us to explore the interesting places and stories of Whitechapel.

Wednesday September 17 at 10.30am
Brooklands, introductory film, private tour and trail

Visit the highlights of Brooklands from classic cars to Concorde and step back in time to the days of innovation and determination.

October date tbc

Royal Hospital Chelsea, private guided tour and museum

Take in the splendour of Wren's buildings, the art masterpieces and its history and hear the captivating stories of its residents.

November date tbc

Foundling Museum, guided tour

Visit this incredible Museum. See its collections and hear about 275 years of London history through its stories and art.

6 – 10 May 2025

The Art, History and Palaces of Vienna and the Danube Valley



Join us for our trip to this extraordinary and historic city. This 5-day tour will include a full programme of excursions and guided visits to the key historic sites and galleries of the city. We will also visit the beautiful Danube Valley with its rich history and sail along the scenic Danube. Come on our organised trip for a fascinating tour of Vienna's art and history.

Lectures take place at

The Sacred Heart Church Hall
Edge Hill, Wimbledon SW19 4LU
8.00pm (coffee is served from 7.30pm)

Visitors and guests are welcome £10
Members are also able to view lectures on Zoom

Annual subscription for 2025

Individual membership £45
Joint membership £85 (two people at same address)
Under 30 membership £25

Please visit **www.artsocwim.org.uk** for application details
or contact our Membership Secretary,
Beryl Steeden at **b.steeden49@btinternet.com**

Young Arts Project

Last year we supported the Polka Theatre's Freefalling project for children in challenging circumstances. See the full report on our website.



Full details of all
our activities are
on our website

Chairman: Jane Healey. Vice Chair: Catriona Armfield
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**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
WIMBLEDON**

2025 PROGRAMME



www.artsocwim.org.uk

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Lectures

Wednesday 8 January

Cash for Coronets: Transatlantic Trailblazers of the Gilded Age

Lecturer: Mark Meredith

At the height of America's Gilded Age, no less than 454 heiresses exchanged their crisp American dollars for musty old European titles, bringing a new lease of life to previously cash-strapped aristocrats and enabling the restoration of their crumbling 'piles'. This lecture will explore some of the more prominent national treasures that owe their existence to this new money and explore the astonishing stories behind the fortunes, the marriages, and the legacies left behind.



John Singer Sargent, *The Marlborough Family*, 1904-05

Wednesday 12 February

The Amadeus Myth: piecing together the real Mozart

Lecturer: Sandy Burnett



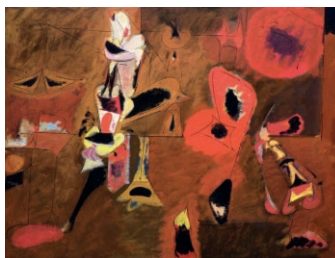
Joseph Lange, *Mozart*, 1783

'A miracle which God let be born in Salzburg' is Leopold Mozart's assessment of his enormously gifted son, who conquered Europe as a child prodigy and took classical music to new heights in the Vienna of the 1780s. Yet Mozart died tragically young, impoverished and underappreciated, while writing a requiem that had been commissioned on condition of secrecy. This lecture, featuring musical examples and contemporary portraits, will strip away some of the myths and piece together the real Mozart.

Wednesday 12 March
Tinker, Tailor, Canvas Chair: How Modernism became a Cold War Secret Agent

Lecturer: James Vaux

One of the strangest tales in art history... Is it true that the CIA used Abstract Expressionism as a secret weapon in the Cold War? Would Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko be forgotten today were it not for this subterfuge? This lecture examines how Modernism in art and design was repurposed by the USA in the 1950s to unsettle the Soviet Union and to win over intellectuals to the West.



Arshile Gorky, *Agony*, 1947

Wednesday 9 April

Persepolis: Art, Architecture and the Ideology of the Persian Empire
Lecturer: James Renshaw

The Persian Empire exploded into life in the middle of the 6th Century BC and was the largest empire in the world for the next two centuries. Around 515 BC its third great king, Darius I, commissioned a vast new city with his grand palace at its centre. This lecture explores the wonder of Persepolis, and what the great palace and its art can tell us about the ideology of this extraordinary and influential empire.



The Persian Immortals, Palace of Darius I



J.M.W. Turner, *Snow storm: Steamboat off a Harbour's Mouth*, 1842, Tate

Wednesday 14 May
Turner and the Modern World

Lecturer: Cindy Polemis

Although born in the age of sail, J.M.W. Turner lived and worked at the peak of the Industrial Revolution, when steam-machine power replaced manpower, and political and social reforms transformed society.

Turner faced up to the new challenges of the age, transforming the way he painted to capture his modern world like no other artist of his time. This lecture looks at how he articulated the dramatic changes, creating a new aesthetic of an industrial sublime.

Wednesday 11 June

The Great Age of Shogun: The Art and Culture of the Edo period of Japan

Lecturer: Marie Conte-Helm

The arts of Japan flourished in richness and diversity during the Edo period. With the emergence of the merchant class and the growth of cities such as Edo (modern-day Tokyo), a new vitality was injected into traditional art forms, giving rise to exciting new developments in the visual and performing arts. This lecture will consider the arts of the period; from castle architecture and golden screen painting to lacquerware and netsuke and how the influence filtered to the West.



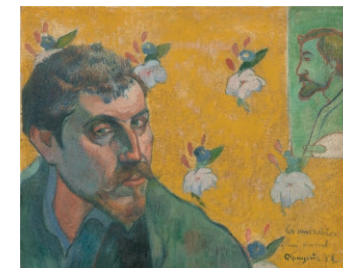
J.M. Whistler, *Caprice in Purple and Gold: The Golden Screen*, 1864

Wednesday 10 September

The Cult of the Pacific: from Cook to Gauguin

Lecturer: Leslie Primo

This lecture will explore the enduring Western obsession with the so-called 'exotic' or 'noble savage' after the discovery of Tahiti in 1767, and chart the impact of the English and European influence that came to this part of the world through the eyes of not only Captain Cook, and those before him, but also through the paintings of the extraordinary artists on these pioneering voyages; and into the 19th and 20th centuries with the images of Gauguin.



Paul Gauguin, *Self Portrait with Portrait of Emile Bernard (Les Misérables)*, 1888

Wednesday 8 October

National Treasures: saving London's Museums and Galleries in WW2

Lecturer: Caroline Shenton



Holland House, Kensington, September 1940

This is the gripping and sometimes hilarious story of how a band of heroic curators and eccentric custodians saved Britain's national heritage during our 'Darkest Hour'. As Hitler's forces gathered on the other side of the Channel to threaten these islands, men and women from London's national museums, galleries and archives packed up their treasures in a race against time and forged extraordinary secret plans to evacuate their collections to safety throughout the country.

Wednesday 12 November

Colour, Sound, Speed - Italian Futurism

Lecturer: Jacqueline Cockburn

Tommaso Marinetti's dramatic launch of futurism with his manifesto in *Le Figaro* in 1909, heralded an assault on traditional art, and an avant-garde movement which embraced the new machine age. In this colourful lecture we will trace its striking rise, its contradiction and contrasts with traditional art, and trace its wide-reaching development and influence not only in painting, sculpture and photography but also as it spread into architecture, design, fashion and even food.



Gino Severini, *The Boulevard*, 1911, Estorick Collection