

Lectures

Wednesday 14 January

Capturing the Moment: How the Brush and the Lens have captured Moments and Moods in Modern History

Lecturer: Cindy Polemis

The arrival of photography was to change the course of painting forever. The instant capture of images meant new artistic ideas and movements were born. But to elevate their work to 'high art', photographers also drew inspiration from painting. From the Pictorialists to Degas, Hockney, Gerhard Richter and more, this lecture follows the relationship between art and photography from the 19th century to the present day and how both have captured moments, moods and events.

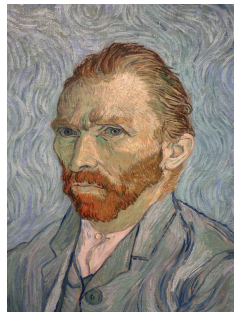


Andy Warhol, *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn*, 1964

Wednesday 11 February

Me, Myself and I: Self-Portraiture through the Ages

Lecturer: Jacky Klein



Vincent van Gogh, *Self-Portrait*, 1889

Self-portraiture has created some of the most interesting and memorable images in art. This lecture examines this most personal and revealing of genres, how depictions have shifted over time; likeness and 'truth', and why artists have relentlessly made images of themselves in their explorations of the world. From Michelangelo to Van Dyck, Rembrandt and many more, we come right up to date, looking at Kahlo, Warhol, and Marina Abramovic and explore what it means to make self-portraits today.

Wednesday 11 March

Bhutan: Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon

Lecturer: Zara Fleming

The tiny kingdom of Bhutan is known as Druk Yul, the Kingdom of the Thunder God. This refers to the Drukpa traditions of Vajrayana Buddhism, which permeate every aspect of life. This lecture journeys through the history, art and the culture of this extraordinary country which has held back time. Recent decades have seen much change. Will Bhutan be able to maintain the fine balance between tradition and modernity without diminishing its culture?



Animal Dancer

Wednesday 8 April

Cleopatra: Image and Reality

Lecturer: Dr Stephen Kershaw

Cleopatra VII, 'the shame of Egypt, the lascivious fury who was to become the bane of Rome', is one of the most intriguing figures in history. This lecture will concentrate on her personality, the events in her life, the men in it, and the cultural context of the time. We will confront fascinating problems: how reliable is the historical tradition about Cleopatra? What did she achieve? And how? And crucially despite representations in art, what did she look like?



Possible portrait of Cleopatra, Herculaneum

Wednesday 13 May

Do we see what they saw? Experiencing Paintings in the Past

Lecturer: Dr Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe



How does our experience of looking at works of art today compare to the viewing experience of earlier centuries? This lecture considers the very different conditions in which paintings were seen and displayed in the past. Today we don't have just daylight and candlelight, we do not use magnifying glasses, conceal pictures behind small curtains, or hang pictures way up high. Come and hear about the unexpected ways people enjoyed and responded to art in the past.

Georges de La Tour, from *the Penitent Magdalen*, c. 1640, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Wednesday 10 June

Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots: The Art of Diplomacy

Lecturer: Dr Christina Faraday

As savvy manipulators of their images, Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I may have been rivals, but as two women attempting to rule courts full of hot-headed aristocratic men, they also saw the powerful role that art could play in maintaining control and shaping their self-presentation. This lecture examines how they used the visual arts to send messages about their reigns, to critique, challenge and condemn and also to negotiate their complex and ultimately tragic relationship.



François Clouet, *Mary, Queen of Scots*, aged about 7, c.1549, Yale University Art Gallery.

Wednesday 9 September

Stranger than Fiction: The Mysterious Disappearances of the Great Jan van Eyck Altarpiece at Ghent

Lecturer: Caroline Rayman

Jan van Eyck's great altarpiece at Ghent is a 15th century masterpiece full of beauty, symbolism and mystery. It has had the most extraordinary history, which is really an art historical thriller. The work was stolen 13 times over six centuries and finally by Adolf Hitler. Its very existence is a miracle, with it only returning home to St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent in 1945. This lecture tells the remarkable story of this altarpiece.



Jan van Eyck, *The Ghent Altarpiece, The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, 1432

Wednesday 14 October

Ludwig van Beethoven: Classical Music's Greatest Revolutionary

Lecturer: Sandy Burnett



Joseph Karl Stieler, *Beethoven with the Manuscript of the Missa Solemnis*, c.1820

Next year is the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death and it is a great time to reassess his important legacy. Born into a family of court musicians, Beethoven became one of the greatest and most disruptive figures in the history of classical music, completely transforming music's cultural landscape. This lecture presents an overview of this brilliant, cantankerous, visionary and astonishingly original composer and how he became a true Romantic artist, or as he described himself, a "poet in sound."

Wednesday 11 November

Gateway to the World: Lisbon and the Art of Empire

Lecturer: Dr Isabelle Kent

When Vasco de Gama set sail from the port of Lisbon in 1497, he was leaving one of the great Gothic jewels of Europe. When he returned, he brought with him the world. With the Age of Exploration came wealth, power and an empire that spanned four continents. This lecture looks at some of the extraordinary treasures that came to Lisbon, and how the art, and particularly the architecture of Lisbon, responded.



Jerónimos Monastery