



SUMMARY OF LECTURES 2023 - Click on a lecture for further details



Evening Lectures

January 11 Master of Suspense:

Alfred Hitchcock

by John Francis



Alfred Hitchcock remains by far the most studied and revered film director of all time. A full analysis of Hitchcock's masterful technique and influences will be the central focus of this Lecture.

February 8 Architecture of Mogul India Palaces, Mosques and Gardens by John Stevens

From the Jama Masjid in Delhi, to the Taj Mahal in Agra, to the Shalimar Gardens in Lahore, this lecture will take you on a tour of some of India's greatest buildings, providing insights into the historical contexts and colourful personalities involved in their construction.



March 8 The Art and Culture of Fin-de-Siecle Vienna

by Gavin Plumley



At the turn of the last century Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and in this lecture Gavin Plumley asks how and why it became such a cultural hotbed, producing many remarkable figures including Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka, Freud, Mahler and Wittgenstein.

April 12 The Elgin Marbles

by Steve Kershaw

It is now around 200 years since the purchase of the so-called 'Elgin Marbles' from Lord Elgin by the British Parliament. In this lecture Steve Kershaw will explore the aesthetics, the back-story and the heated debates surrounding these fascinating and controversial works of ancient Greek art.



May 10 Caravaggio: Murderer or Genius

by Julia Musgrave

Julia Musgrave follows the dramatic incidents of Caravaggio's life and looks at why and how his work became so influential both during his own lifetime and later.



June 14 Mrs Purple Feather, Fashion, Fury and Feminism

by Tessa Boase



When social historian Tessa Boase told the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds she wanted to write their early story, they refused to let her visit their archives. To a former investigative journalist, this was a challenge she could not resist . . .

September 13 Banksy—Fraud or Genius

by Pepe Martinez

The lecture will trace the story of Banksy's humble beginnings as a graffiti tagger on the streets of Bristol in the 1980's to one of the most famous artists in the world examining the reasons behind his incredible rise.



October 11 AS Truro AGM followed by Dido Elizabeth Belle and the Beginnings of Abolition

by Leslie Primo

This lecture traces the beginnings of the abolition of slavery through the eyes of Dido Elizabeth Belle, a black woman living in Kenwood House in the late 18th century, and the only known portrait of her painted by Johann Zoffany.



November 8 Pevsner in Cornwall

by Susie Harries



How did a German refugee from Hitler become the Grand Old Man of English art history? The answer lies in his extraordinary survey of all the architecturally significant buildings in the country. This lecture explores what he said, rightly or wrongly, about the buildings in Cornwall.

December 13 The Harp from Antiquity to the Middle Ages

by Sarah Deere-Jones

Through illustrations taken from wall paintings, sculpture, mosaics, pottery, and stone carvings Sarah will explain the fascinating history of the harp and its journey along the Silk Road to Asia, and into Europe.



Discovery Days

March 9 Prague, Budapest and Ljubljana: Art, Music and Culture

by Gavin Plumley



In this series of three talks, Gavin will look at the Czech lands, Slovenia and Hungary through the prism of their capital cities. He illustrates how each city has expressed and built its national identity through art, music and architecture.

October 12 The Cult of the South Pacific

by Leslie Primo

This day consists of three lectures.
Part 1: Cook and the Invention of Paradise - Voyages and Discoveries.
Part 2: Omai, the Exotic and Joshua Reynolds.
Part 3: Invention and Re-Invention: Gauguin's Portraits and the Myth of Paradise.

