



on Thursday 12 October 2023 10am to 3.30pm

Held at Malpas Village Hall (Transport arranged from Boscawen Park)

Part 1: Cook and the Invention of Paradise - Voyages and Discoveries

This lecture will look at the artistic legacy of Cook's voyages to the South Pacific and the events that led up to the invention of paradise and the European notion of the exotic.

Charting the three voyages we will not only discover exotic objects that were brought back from the South Pacific, but also the artists that accompanied Cook on all three voyages and who gave us a wealth of paintings and illustrations of said objects and the verdant lands.

Artists such as John Webber (1751 - 1793), Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798) and his son Johann Georg Adam Forster (1754-1794), Sydney Parkinson (c.1745–1771, William Parry (1743 -1791) are among those that would paint these exotic images.



Part 2: Omai, the Exotic and Joshua Reynolds

This lecture will look at the events that led up to Joshua Reynolds's portrait of Omai becoming an emblematic and iconic image representing Britain at the very height of its imperial powers. To explore this famous moment from history when two worlds collided, the key players in Omai's story will be explored, including his origins in Tahiti, his background and motivation to come to England, followed by his time in England and English society and his interaction therein.



Part 3: Invention and Re-Invention - Gauguin's Portraits and the Myth of Paradise

This lecture will look at the enduring Western obsession with, and invention of, the so called 'exotic' or 'noble savage' that would eventually

manifest itself in the 19th and early 20th century with the images of Gauguin. And so this lecture takes us into the modern period and looks at what happens to these notions of the exotic in the 19th century explored through the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist work of this period's most notable visitor to the island of Tahiti also looking for the exotic and paradise - Paul Gauguin (1848 – 1903).



Leslie Primo is a graduate with a degree in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from Birkbeck, University College, London. During his studies he specialised in early Medieval and Renaissance studies, including: *Italian Renaissance Drawing; Art and Architecture in Europe 1250-1400; Art and Architecture in Europe 1400-1500; Medici and Patronage; Narrative Painting in the Age of Giotto; the work of Peter Paul Rubens, focusing on his paintings of the Judgement of Paris; and Greek Myth in paintings.*

We do hope you will be able to join us on
Thursday 12 October 2023

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Cost £33 per person (Non-members £38)
to include coffee and cake

Optional Buffet Lunch £6

[Click here for an application form](#)
or email: taddymcd@hotmail.co.uk