

## Tuesday Lecture Programme 2020

### **January 14th: The Queen of Instruments: the lute within Old Masters paintings** *Adam Busiakiewicz*

The lute holds a special place in the history of art: from the golden-haired angels of the Italian Renaissance through depiction by artists such as Holbein and Titian to the pleasures of interior scenes by Jan Steen and portraits by Frans Hals in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The lute and other musical instruments are explored as devices to express various aspects of the human character throughout the ages.

### **February 11th: Gilt and Gorgeousness - a celebration of the 200th anniversary of King George IV's accession to the throne** *Barbara Askew*

On coming to the throne George IV instinctively understood the majesty and splendour appropriate to the monarch of the richest and most powerful country in the world. This lecture traces his developing taste as Prince of Wales, Regent and King and examines connections between his royal residences as well as his spectacular legacy to the Royal Collection – the greatest by any monarch since Charles I.

### **March 10th: Córdoba and beyond: Muslim art and architecture in Spain** *Angela Smith*

This lecture discusses aspects of the brilliant Islamic visual culture that was produced from the results of Umayyad rule in Cordoba and the subsequent history of Muslim culture in Spain, and examines Hispano-Islamic ceramics, ivories and other artistic forms. Muslim art and architecture during the Reconquista including the building of the Alhambra in Granada is also considered.

### **April 14th: Nordic Spirit: Grieg, Ibsen and Munch** *Anne Anderson*

Norway did not gain independence from Sweden until 1905 explaining the nationalistic fervour of Edvard Grieg's music who composed the incidental music for Ibsen's play, Peer Gynt which transformed Ibsen's dramatic poem into a fairytale. But no one captured the angst of the era more effectively than Edvard Munch, whose "Scream" is as famed as the Mona Lisa.

### **May 12th: William Morris: Socialist and entrepreneur** *Jo Banham*

Much of the work produced by the decorating firm of William Morris was too expensive for anyone but the wealthy to afford and without their patronage he would not have been able to maintain his own artistic lifestyle or to support his many socialist causes. The ideas and contradictions inherent in Morris's life and ideas are examined as well as the tensions between his two roles as revolutionary socialist and highly successful businessman and entrepreneur.

### **June 9th: Paint to Print: Tracy Chevalier, "The Girl with the Pearl Earring"** *Nicole Mezey*

Chevalier's book turned into a major feature film translates into words the intimate, intense quality of one of Vermeer's best-loved and most hypnotic paintings. Meticulously researched it evokes people and places, crafts, class and submerged tensions with, at its heart, Jan Vermeer, his home and family, patrons and preoccupations. It is not necessary to have read the book before the session.

### **September 15th: Mad Men and Artists - how the advertising industry exploited fine art** *Tony Rawlins*

Fine art has provided advertisers and their agencies with a great deal of material to use in their creative campaigns. From the Renaissance through to the present-day, fine art continues to provide opportunities to enhance brand imagery with admiration, humour, satire and irony.

### **October 13th: The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao and the architecture of Frank Gehry** *Sian Walters*

This lecture introduces the Guggenheim foundation, how it came about and the very particular circumstances that led to the commission of the Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry in Bilbao. The collection of paintings, sculptures and installations contained within the museum are shown, covering the permanent collection as well as providing up-to-date information on current and future exhibitions. Projects for a new Guggenheim are also discussed.

### **November 10th: Restoration Theatre, rakes, fops and wenches** *Malcolm Jones*

The return of Charles II led to the re-opening of theatres after the 18-year closure of public playhouses under the Commonwealth Government. The new theatres saw the first actress on the stage replacing the cross-dressing males. Great actors and lively audiences in Restoration Theatre brought the morals of the court onto the stage in its comedies of city life and an era of great playwriting was unleashed.

### **December 8th: The Art of 1935** *Pamela Campbell Johnston*

This lecture explores a single year in which many aspects of decorative and fine art are set against the backdrop of the 1935 Silver Jubilee Celebrations of King George V and Queen Mary. Contemporaneous art forms are examined, including the work of the photographer Cecil Beaton; magazine, poster and Penguin paperback book design; architecture; Silver Jubilee memorabilia; commemorative stamps; locomotive design and fashion as well as works of the age of Art Deco.