

# ArtsNational Launceston Special Interest Days

4 September

Timothy Walker

**To Promote Learning and Glorify the Work of God - History of Gardening Through the Eyes of a Botanical Gardener**



"To promote learning and glorify the work of God" is a translation of the 17th century Latin mission statement of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, where Timothy Walker was *Horti Praefectus* (director) from 1988 to 2014. This study day looks at what he found most interesting about the origins, history, present, and future of gardens, gardeners, and gardening, and tries to answer some overlapping

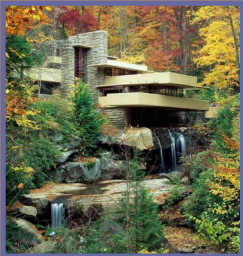
questions, such as: What is a garden? What influences garden design? Is gardening a fine art? Do we still need gardens for study and research? And can gardeners really help to preserve biological diversity?

23 October

Deborah Jenner

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Innovation in Interior Design**

**Frank Lloyd Wright's Sense of Place**, focusses on private homes for the middle-class, constructed with local materials to harmonise with their natural landscapes from deserts and prairies to forests and waterfalls. Ecologically they are ahead of their times. From *Falling Water*, a millionaire's retreat in Pennsylvania, to affordable urban housing in Milwaukee, each construction is married to its unique setting.



His all-on-one-level Prairie houses spread out over Mid-West farmland, while the ascending spiral ramp in the Guggenheim Museum in New York completely redefined gallery spaces. Not only are Wright's buildings America's icons of 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture, but they also offer the key to novel solutions for the new millennium worldwide.

**Pull up a Chair: architect-designed furniture from the Bauhaus to Frank Gehry** 20<sup>th</sup> century furniture popularized prefabrication and poured materials. Architect designers created pieces adapted from a bicycle frame and wire racking, and exploited plastics and layers of corrugated cardboard. Each piece makes a statement about their respective architectural styles, yet each can blend with and update more classical interiors. Even the uncomfortable ones can serve as a sculptural work of art.

In 2024 ArtsNational Launceston (ADFAS) will deliver an exciting program of superbly illustrated face-to-face lectures on a diverse range of topics within the arts and related disciplines: It will include:

- 8 Lectures from International Lecturers, and
- 2 lectures from Australian Lecturers

Evening Lectures commence @ **6.00 pm** and will be followed by light refreshments

Daytime lectures commence @ **10.00 am**

Venue for both evening and daytime lectures is

@ Sir Raymond Ferrall Lecture Theatre @ The University of Tasmania's Newnham campus, Launceston.

To join or renew your membership with ArtsNational Launceston please complete the 2024 Membership form @

<https://www.adfas.org.au/societies/launceston/>

There is no joining fee & annual Membership is **\$165.00 single, or \$300 for a couple**

Visitors are welcome to attend 3 lectures per year for a fee of \$30.00 per lecture.

Payment by EFT: BSB 633-000 Acc. No: 162475040  
EFT Reference: YOUR NAME

Payment by Square Reader (at event)

Payment by cheque: Payable to ADFAS Launceston Inc.  
ADFAS Launceston Inc. PO Box 445 Launceston TAS 7250

For further information email:  
[Launceston@adfas.org.au](mailto:Launceston@adfas.org.au)

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Image: *Girl with a Pearl Earring* c.1665 Johannes Vermeer



# ArtsNational Launceston Lecture Program

## 2024

**ADFAS** AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE & FINE ARTS SOCIETIES

27 February

Anne Sebba

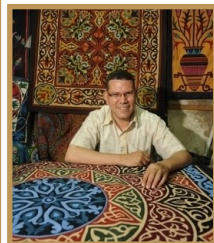
### The Story of the Cook Sisters and how they used opera to save lives



This talk will explore the world of opera in the 1920s & 1930s - and reveal how Ida and Louise Cook, two eccentric opera loving sisters, used opera to undertake dangerous undercover missions to rescue Jewish musicians & others from the Nazis, saving at least 29 families. In 2010 the Cook sisters were posthumously declared British Heroes of the Holocaust.

16 April

Jenny Bowker



### The Tentmakers of Old Cairo

Jenny lived for four years in Cairo and worked closely with the Egyptian Tentmakers. Having taken exhibitions to Australia, France, and Spain, Jenny will talk about the history and development of the Tentmakers' appliqué, an artform that is dying; Cairo's Tentmaker's Street which had 247 skilled masters in 1979 is now down to 45.

14 May

Ann Anderson

### How we got Ikea!



### Scandinavian Design 1880 - 1960

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Scandinavian countries emerged as leaders of progressive design and came of age in the 1950s. This lecture explores how Scandinavian Modern arrived at its 'less is more' principle, and how the economy and self-reliance Do-It-Yourself IKEA globalised Scandinavian Modern.

9 July

Daniel Evans

### The Sistine Chapel Ceiling Cracked



The Sistine Chapel is rightly considered one of the modern Wonders of the World. This lecture will look at the decoration of the ceiling by Michelangelo and concentrate on some more unusual inclusions in the Old Testament scheme, particularly subversive elements of sin and punishment.

10 July (Morning)

Daniel Evans

### Michelangelo: Paper, Stone and Flesh



Michelangelo was grumpy, dirty, ugly, and tight-fisted but produced work of such startling beauty and originality that two biographies were written in his lifetime, we know exactly what he looked like in life and at his death and today we have over 1400 surviving letters by his own hand. Over 450 years have passed since the death of this talented yet tempestuous superstar, this lecture sets out to examine several of his drawings, a little of his poetry and some of his finished and unfinished works with the aim of all but summoning the great man to the room.

6 August

Lynne Gibson

### Culture and Kitch: Art and Taste



What has happened to art? Tracy Emin reveals her dirty knickers and crumpled sheets, Damien Hirst pickles fish and directs pop videos, Jeff Koons stars in pornographic photographs and designs giant floral puppies. Is high-brow culture 'dumbing down' or is art becoming gloriously democratic, embracing consumerism, the mass media and kitsch? Is it all just a game? This lecture will offer some insights into the politically incorrect world of Culture, Fine Art, and Taste.

7 August (Morning)

Lynne Gibson

### Colour and the Artists Palette: Seeing Red



Red is the colour of love and lust, royalty and ceremony, anger and danger and it's worn by scarlet women and the Madonna. The brightest crimson dye came from the blood of an exotic insect. In Ancient Rome, the fieriest red pigment was believed to be created by the combined blood of a feuding elephant and a dragon! But the most vivid reds were often frustratingly fugitive. It had faded before reaching the wall of the

Royal Academy. Where does the saying 'caught red handed' come from? Why is scarlet not always red? And why is red a favourite of fast-food outlets?

3 September

Timothy Walker

### Paradise Lost & Restored - 400 Years of Garden Design in Oxfordshire



The history of English garden design is told "through the lens" of one garden - the Oxford Botanic Garden founded at the beginning of the 17th century. Through the next 400 years successive *Horti Praefecti* (head gardeners) changed the features reflecting the art of gardening, and very occasionally the science of botany. This talk looks at how

the art of gardening has changed - or not - over four centuries, and how one of the motivations for garden design remains the desire to create paradise on Earth.

4 September

Timothy Walker

### To Promote Learning and Glorify the Work of God - History of Gardening Through the Eyes of a Botanical Gardener . (special interest day)

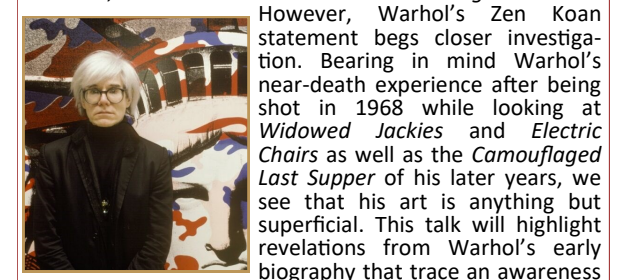
Details overleaf, Venue to be confirmed.

22 October

Deborah Jenner

### Andy Warhol: Behind the Surface of the Superficial

*Warhol: Just look at the surface of my paintings and films and me, and there I am. There's nothing behind it.*



However, Warhol's Zen Koan statement begs closer investigation. Bearing in mind Warhol's near-death experience after being shot in 1968 while looking at *Widowed Jackies* and *Electric Chairs* as well as the *Camouflaged Last Supper* of his later years, we see that his art is anything but superficial. This talk will highlight revelations from Warhol's early biography that trace an awareness

23 October

Deborah Jenner

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Innovation in Interior Design

(special interest day) Details overleaf, Venue to be confirmed.

November

(TBC)

### Watch this space.

An exciting lecture to end the year on will soon be revealed.

