

2025 LECTURERS



SUSANNAH FULLERTON

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, is a literature expert with a BA from the University of Auckland and a postgraduate degree from the University of Edinburgh. She teaches in Sydney and lectures at major NSW institutions. In 2017, she received the Order of Australia Medal.

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has authored books, led literary tours, and regularly lectured for ADFAS.



SUE ROLLIN

Sue Rollin holds a degree in Near Eastern archaeology, South Asian studies, and conference interpreting. She has lectured at London and Cambridge Universities, worked for the European Commission, and now freelances as a lecturer and tour guide. She has led tours

across Spain, Morocco, and Central Asia, co-authored guides on Jordan and Istanbul, and regularly lectures for the Arts Society.



DAVID BANNING

David, one of Australia's finest conductors, is a renowned musician, composer, and educator. He has won prestigious awards, including the ABC Young Conductor's Award, and serves as Artistic Director of Christ Church Camerata and Newcastle Music Festival. David

has worked with leading orchestras and is known for his radio show, "Banney's Baton Banter." He regularly lectures on musical symmetry at international conferences.



ALICE FOSTER

Alice has lectured for Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education since 1998 and regularly teaches at the Ashmolean Museum and Oxfordshire Museum. Her freelance career includes organizing History of Art study days and weekly classes. Since 2004,

Alice has lectured for The Arts Society in Britain and Europe. She was elected President of Banbury Fine Arts Society in 2010.



CHRIS ASLAN

Chris Aslan, born in Turkey, studied Media and Journalism at Leicester University before moving to Uzbekistan to establish a UNESCO workshop, reviving traditional carpet designs. After being expelled during an anti-Western purge, he worked with yak herders in Tajikistan

and later in Kyrgyzstan. Now based in Cambridge, he writes and lectures, with his latest book *Unravelling the Silk Road* is published by Icon Books. Chris also takes tours to Central Asia, returning whenever he can, having left a large chunk of his heart out there.



TOBY FABER

Toby Faber, an experienced lecturer, studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge before working in investment banking and management consulting. He served as managing director of Faber and Faber, where he remains on the board.

Toby has authored three narrative histories:

Stradivarius, *Fabergé's Eggs* and *Faber & Faber: The Untold Story*, as well as the novel *Close to the Edge*.



LYDIA BAUMAN

Lydia, born in Poland, studied Fine Art at Newcastle University and earned an MA in History of Art from the Courtauld Institute, London. She has spent over 35 years lecturing at London's National Gallery and other institutions worldwide. During the pandemic, she launched

Art for the Uninitiated, delivering over 180 online lectures to adult audiences.



GEORGINA BEXON

Georgina is an international art historian who has lived and worked in the UK, Europe, USA, and Singapore. She lectures, writes, consults, and collects art, with a strong network across Europe, the USA, and India. A consultant for the Oriental Club in London and a tour guide at Tate

Modern, Georgina holds multiple degrees and is active in global art conferences.

ArtsNational Hunter (formerly ADFAS) is one of 38 societies in Australia. We offer eight high quality lectures each year by recognised Australian and International experts in visual arts, theatre, film and literature.

Find our more www.artsnationalhunter.org.au

BEING A MEMBER is far more than a membership, you will be part of a special community that supports local arts, increasing access to arts education and volunteer projects. We support many younger members of the community find their enthusiasm and talent for art through our Young Arts Project. We welcome you as a new member and thank our existing members for their support and commitment to arts in our community through **ArtsNational Hunter**.

For more information visit

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Email: members@artsnationalhunter.org.au

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ARTSNATIONAL Hunter

(FORMERLY ADFAS POKOLBIN)



Lady with Ermine - Leonardo Da Vinci c.1501-1519

2025 LECTURE SERIES

LECTURE PROGRAM 2025

ArtsNational Hunter lectures are held at the **Performing Arts Centre Cessnock - PACC** unless otherwise indicated, Corner Vincent St and Aberdare Rd, Cessnock.
Time: Entry from 6.30pm and fully seated by 6.45pm
Prior notice of attendance to our Membership Secretary is recommended for catering purposes.

Email: members@artsnationalhunter.org.au
Please check our website or Facebook for regular updates

Annual Membership: \$180 (8 lectures)

Visitors Welcome: \$35 per lecture

Please note: Due to PACC availability limitations, July and August lectures may vary in location and time. Website and email notification will be provided.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
JANE AUSTEN - HER LIFE AND WORKS - Celebrating 250 years
by *Susannah Fullerton*

Jane Austen's six polished and elegant social comedies, written by a woman whose personal life was modest and confined, display her cool judgment, ironic detachment, and deep wit, making

them timelessly popular. Susannah Fullerton, President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia and author of several books, shares her passion for Austen's novels and her life. With illustrations bringing the Regency world to life, Fullerton's readings remind audiences of the humour and charm that make Jane Austen's work so beloved.



MONDAY, MARCH 10
SECRETS OF THE SERAIL: BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE OTTOMAN COURT
by *Sue Rollin*

Explore the fascinating world of the Ottoman court in Istanbul, visiting iconic

palaces like Topkapi and Dolmabahce. Delve into the hidden life of the royal court through the eyes of both European visitors and the Ottomans. Discover the sultans' treasures, including jewels, ceramics, and ceremonial attire. Enter the secluded harem, where the Sultan's concubines lived under the watch of eunuchs and the powerful Queen Mother.



MONDAY, APRIL 7
HEARING ART, SEEING MUSIC

by *David Banning*
Leonardo and Palestrina, Picasso and Stravinsky - art and music have always followed parallel paths, with music trailing slightly behind.

This lecture traces the major historical movements of the last 1,000 years, exploring the connections between sound and visual art. How can we 'hear' perspective or 'see' sonata form? What does Rothko sound like, and what does Philip Glass look like? And why does music always seem to take longer to catch up?



MONDAY, MAY 5
DE CODING DA VINCI
by *Alice Foster*

Leonardo da Vinci epitomised Renaissance Humanism, creating some of the most influential painting in Western art. He died over 500 years ago, yet his work remains enigmatic, potent and mystifying. A gifted engineer, inventor and scientist, painting fell at the end of his line of curiosity, yet ironically, it's this for

which he is remembered best. Much is unfinished; his Last Supper was the target of jokes and vandalism by French forces in Milan, while he was among the first to celebrate human imperfection in his caricatures. And just what is the draw of his Mona Lisa?



MONDAY, JULY 7
A CARPET RIDE TO KHIVA
by *Chris Aslan*

Chris Aslan shares his journey of working with UNESCO to establish a silk carpet workshop in

Khiva, Uzbekistan, home to the world's most homogenous Islamic architecture. His work led him to Afghan bazaars to source natural dyes and to European libraries and museums to revive 15th-century carpet designs from ancient manuscripts. Along the way, he transformed the lives of local women and became the largest private employer in the town.



MONDAY, AUGUST 4
THE GENIUS OF ANTONIO STRADIVARI

by *Toby Faber*
Even 250 years after Antonio Stradivari's death, his violins and cellos remain the most highly prized instruments, known for their



legendary tone and beauty. Despite countless attempts, no violin-maker has matched them. This lecture explores the mystery by tracing Stradivari's instruments from his workshop to the present day. The travels extended from Vienna's salons to New York's concert hall and Beethoven's last quartets to the first phonographic recordings.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
BRITISH ART FROM EGG TO BACON

by *Lydia Bauman*
This talk surveys 100 years of British art, from Victorian artist Leopold Augustus Egg to Francis Bacon. It explores how Britain's isolated position shaped a uniquely British style, occasionally influenced by Europe but often distinct.

The lecture also offers a humorous analysis of British cultural archetypes like the "stiff upper lip," "a nice cup of tea," "no sex please, we're British," and of course, "the weather."



MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ART HEIST

by *Georgina Bexon*
On 18 March 1990, thirteen works of art worth \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Museum officials, police and security experts were baffled, and the masterpieces have never been recovered, marking a devastating loss. This talk recounts

the police investigation into the missing works by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Degas and Manet, shedding light on how, why and by whom the robbery was committed, though the crime remains officially unsolved.