

Who are our lecturers for 2026?

1. Susannah Fullerton OAM



Susannah has a BA from the University of Auckland NZ and a post-graduate degree from the University of Edinburgh. She has written several books, taught literature courses in Sydney, lectured at the State Library of NSW, and is the president of the Jane Austin Society of Australia. In 2017, she was awarded an OAM.

2. Ian Swankie



A Londoner with a contagious enthusiasm for art and architecture, Ian is an official guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Guildhall Art Gallery and St Paul's Cathedral. He is also a freelance London tour guide. Since 2012 he has led a popular weekly independent art lecture group in his home town of Richmond in West London. Ian is an Accredited Lecturer for The Arts Society and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Art Scholars, one of the City of London's famous livery companies

3. Claudia Chan Shaw



Sydney born creative Claudia Chan Shaw has a multi-faceted career as a fashion designer, television and radio presenter, author, public speaker, installation artist, photo artist, and curator. Claudia is perhaps best known for her role as co-host and presenter on ABC TV'S popular program, "Collectors" and her subsequent book "Collectomania: From Objects of Desire to Magnificent Obsession".

4. Monica Bohm-Duchen



London based freelance lecturer, writer and exhibition organiser, Monica has lectured for the Tate, the National Gallery, the Royal Academy of Arts, to name a few. She was an associate lecturer at Birkbeck College for over 15 years and has led many art tours, mainly for Martin Randall Travel.

5. Steven Miller



Stephen Miller was the former head of the National Art Archive at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. He has worked in commercial and public galleries and published widely on art. He wrote the first history of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, published in 2021 to celebrate its 150th anniversary

6. Mary Sharp



Mary is an experienced broadcaster and teacher with particular expertise in literature and drama. She worked for many years for BBC Radio 4 producing some of its most popular programmes, including Start the Week and Woman's Hour, before joining the senior management team as a Commissioning Editor.

7. Mark Cottle



Born on the isles of Scilly and educated at Truro School, Cornwall and Birmingham Universities, Mark has enjoyed a career in education and training at home and abroad. He has lectured widely on Medieval and Tudor history. Currently Mark runs two small companies providing training and study breaks.

8. Marie Conte-Helm



Professor Conte-Helm is a long-established Lecturer of the Arts Society with a BA in History of Art and an MA in Asian Art. She is widely published and has lectured throughout the UK and abroad. She is also an experienced cruise speaker and a Resident Historian with Viking Cruises. She was awarded an OBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours.

9. Antony Penrose



For the past 45 years, Antony has conserved and disseminated the work of his parents, Lee Miller and Roland Penrose. With his daughter Ami, he is the co-director of the The Lee Miller Archives and the Penrose Collection at Farley Farm House in Sussex and has seen his parents' work featured in major exhibitions at the V&A, National Portrait Gallery, the Imperial War Museum London, Manchester Art Gallery, Scottish National gallery of Modern Art and the Whitworth.



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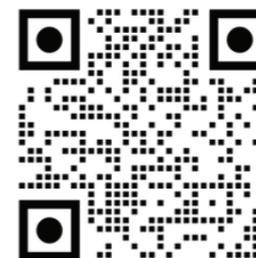
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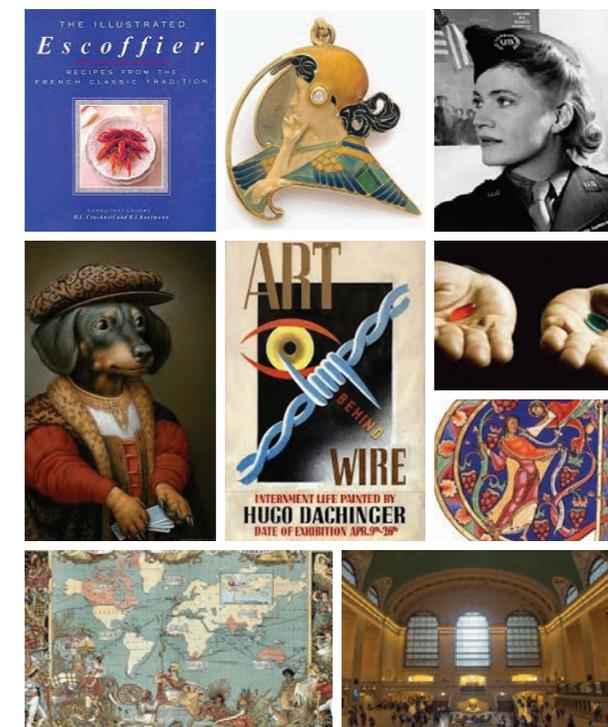
**AGM and Christmas
celebration
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ARTSNATIONAL Blue Mountains 2026

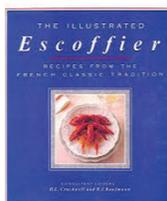


Lectures held monthly
Fridays 1.30 for 2.00pm
School of Arts
Great Western Highway
Wentworth Falls

1. January 30

Susannah Fullerton
Auguste Escoffier - Chef, author and restaurateur

Auguste Escoffier revolutionised French Cuisine, getting rid of heavy sauces, simplifying and codifying recipes. In this lecture Susannah will talk about his recipes (many named for famous people of the day), his innovations, his relationship with César Ritz, his role on the Titanic, his hatred of afternoon teas, and discover how this French trailblazer altered dining habits for ever.



2. February 27

Ian Swankie
Great Railway Stations
Evoking the Spirit of Romance and Adventure

This lecture explores some of the most evocative and splendid stations in the world. We look not only at the magnificence of station architecture and engineering but also examine numerous artworks within railway stations and the many depictions of stations in art – like Monet's Gare St Lazare or William Powell Frith's Paddington. A lecture that will be lavish, colourful and fun.



3. April 10

Claudia Chan Shaw
Art Nouveau - Ahead of the Curve

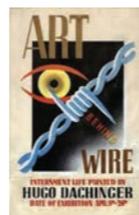
Popular in Europe and the United States from 1890 – 1910, Art Nouveau was a decorative style that influenced architecture, fine art, illustration, advertising, jewellery, glass and furniture design. It was a new style for the coming century, rejecting the dated, historic references of the past – a “new art”. Join Claudia Chan Shaw for an absorbing look at this most elegant of design movements, celebrating the work of Alphonse Mucha, Louis Comfort Tiffany, René Lalique, Victor Horta, Hector Guimard and more. A LECTURE FULL OF BEAUTY!



4. May 1

Monica Bohm-Duchen
Creativity Against the Odds
Art and Internment During World War Two

Just what is it that compels human beings to create images even in the most adverse and inauspicious circumstances? This talk will focus on the surprisingly rich creative life of the British and Australian World War Two internment camps



5. June 5

Steven Miller
Dogs in Art - Enjoy these tails of how dogs have changed in the course of Australian art

Dogs have truly been ‘the best friend’ to artists, not only as subjects, but also as companions and champions. Australians love their dogs. With nearly 3.5 million dogs registered, we are said to have one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world. Apart from writing the main text on the subject of *Dogs in Australian Art*, Steven Miller also maintains the popular Instagram account *dogsinozart*. This is a serious artistic subject which will be presented in an enjoyable and light-hearted way.



6. July 3

Mary Sharp
Is this the real life? How Writers and Artists have Challenged our Perceptions of Reality

When Lucy goes through the wardrobe into Narnia, when Harry Potter opens his letter and when Nemo takes the red pill, they all discover that the worlds they thought they knew are only part of the truth. From Plato onwards, writers and artists have been inspired to push beyond the everyday and to create other worlds that inspire our imaginations. This lecture explores what these stories tell us about how we view our lives and what it is that we most desire.



7. August 7

Mark Cottle
Masonry, Manuscripts and Music: An Inspirational Journey Through Medieval England

The architecture, manuscript illumination and music of medieval England are among the greatest achievements of any period of English cultural history. The aim of this lecture is to capture something of the essence of England's Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals.



8. September 4

Marie Conte-Helm
Around the World with Isabella Bird: Victorian Lady Traveller

This lecture traces the story of the intrepid Victorian lady traveller, Isabella Bird, who set out to see the world and brought glimpses of it back to her readership at home. Isabella Bird's fascinating written accounts of her globetrotting adventures from the 1850s offer insights into some of the challenges faced by women travellers in the mid-Victorian period as well as the growth of travel and tourism opportunities that helped to make the world a smaller place. Her photographic work and illustrations contributed to the emerging picture of everyday life in the East.



9. October 9

Antony Penrose
The Making of 'Lee'

Antony, the son of Lee Miller, a former model who was also involved in the surrealist art movement, but who is perhaps best remembered as one of the very few female war correspondents during the liberation of Europe at the end of the second World War, when she worked as a photojournalist. Today's lecture is the behind-the-scenes story of the decade long journey to the release of the major feature film 'LEE' starring Kate Winslet. The movie is based on Antony's biography of his mother, *The Lives of Lee Miller*, published in 1985.



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