

2026 MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP COST

Adult: \$160 Student: \$75

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

All payments for 2026 Membership before 1 February will receive two visitor vouchers and go into a draw for one full membership refund.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

JOIN AND PAY VIA DIRECT FUNDS TRANSFER OR
PAY AT THE FIRST LECTURE ON 12 FEBRUARY 2026

Send your completed form to the Membership Secretary:
Richard Wiseman | Email: richardcwiseman@hotmail.com
Post: PO Box 269 Berry NSW 2535

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership form can also be accessed via:
<https://www.artsnational.au/societies/shoalhaven/>

Name(s).....

Address.....

Suburb.....P/code.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Membership: Renewal New Member

Direct funds transfer: NAB Account: ArtsNational Shoalhaven
BSB: 082-435 | Account No: 50503 5938
Reference: Your Name

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 6:30PM

The V&A Photography Collection – The World's First

BY JOHN SWAINSTON

Join John Swainston for a captivating exploration of the V&A's pioneering role in photography. Founded when the medium was just eleven years old, the V&A today holds the world's oldest and one of its most comprehensive photography collections. Discover how artistic, technical, and social changes have shaped this remarkable archive over 175 years, as Swainston – an expert with over forty years' experience – brings its images, stories, and innovators vividly to life.



THURSDAY 5 MARCH 6:30PM

Pots and Frocks – The World Of Grayson Perry: From Essex Punk Potter To Superstar And National Treasure

BY IAN SWANKIE

Explore the vibrant and provocative world of Sir Grayson Perry with art expert Ian Swankie. Possibly one of the world's best-known British contemporary artists, Perry is a Turner Prize winner and Royal Academician celebrated for his flamboyant alter ego, Claire. Through ceramics, textiles, and tapestries, he explores identity, class, and modern life with wit and insight. This engaging talk reveals the man behind the frocks and his enduring influence on contemporary art and culture.

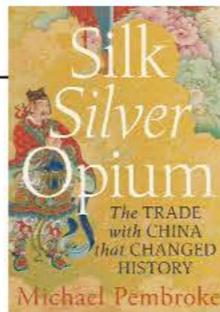


THURSDAY 16 APRIL 6:30PM

Silk Silver Opium

BY MICHAEL PEMBROKE

Delve into the dramatic story of China's trade with the West in *Silk Silver Opium* with historian and author Michael Pembroke. From silk, silver, and tea to opium, missionaries, and war, this lecture reveals how centuries of commerce, conflict, and cultural exchange shaped China's modern identity. Learn why these historical interactions continue to influence China's relationship with the West and offer important insights for today's global politics.



THURSDAY 7 MAY 6:30PM

The Artist and His Model: Whistler & Joanna Hiffenan

BY JOANNE RHYMER

Whistler's *Symphony in White, No. 1: The White Girl* (1862) is a strikingly modern masterpiece. This lecture explores Joanna Hiffenan's crucial role in Whistler's art and life – was she merely his muse or a creative collaborator shaping his vision? Drawing on the Royal Academy's 2022 exhibition *Whistler's Woman in White*, the talk is presented by art historian Jo, a Cambridge and V&A tutor specialising in 19th- and early 20th-century French art and the art of close looking.



THURSDAY 4 JUNE 6:30PM

Myth And Legend In Shadow Theatre

BY DR SAM BOWKER & MELINDA BOWKER

Experience the craft and performance traditions of shadow puppetry across the world with Associate Professor Sam Bowker, an Art History and Visual Culture specialist and experienced puppeteer. From historic *wayang kulit* to Manual Cinema, explore the rarely seen history of one of the world's oldest and most mysterious art forms, shadows that predate photography and television. The lecture concludes with a performance of *The Flea*, sung by Melinda Bowker with Sam Bowker's captivating puppetry.



THURSDAY 9 JULY 6:30PM

Love Actually: Your Favourite Christmas Movie Will Never Be The Same!

BY MARY SHARP

Richard Curtis's *Love Actually* is celebrated for its mix of comedy and tragedy, but could there be more beneath the surface? In this entirely original (and definitely unauthorised) lecture, Mary explores how Shakespeare's great tragedies and other classical masterpieces quietly shape the film's stories. Drawing on her experience as a broadcaster, teacher, and literature expert, she offers fresh insights into storytelling, showing how timeless themes continue to influence modern narratives and cinema.



THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 6:30PM

A Photographic Odyssey: Shackleton's Endurance Expedition Captured On Camera

BY MARK COTTLE

Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Antarctic expedition faced extraordinary challenges when the *Endurance* was trapped and crushed in pack ice. After months on the ice, Shackleton's crew rowed to Elephant Island, and he sailed 800 miles to South Georgia to rescue them. This lecture by Mark Cottle, experienced historian and educator, showcases Australian photographer Frank Hurley's remarkable images capturing the Antarctic's landscapes and human drama during an era when the continent was largely unknown.



THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM

The Great Age Of The Shogun: Art And Culture In Edo Period Japan

BY MARIE CONTE-HELM

Step into the vibrant world of Edo-period Japan, when the Tokugawa Shogunate oversaw a flourishing of the arts and a dynamic middle-class culture. This lecture by Professor Conte-Helm explores castle architecture, golden screen painting, ukiyo-e prints, textiles, lacquerware, netsuke, and the flamboyant kabuki theatre. With her extensive expertise and distinguished career in Asian art and UK-Japan cultural relations, she brings to life the creativity, colour, and excitement of this transformative era.



THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 6:30PM

Lee Miller And Roland Penrose At Farley Farm

BY ANTONY PENROSE

Discover the lives of British Surrealist Roland Penrose and American photographer Lee Miller through the eyes of their son and biographer, Antony Penrose. This lecture explores their formative years, artistic motivations, and commitment to using art to improve the world. It also highlights their later life at Farley Farm in Sussex, a creative hub that welcomed prominent Surrealist and Modern artists, offering a unique glimpse into their extraordinary personal and artistic journey.

