Thursday 9 September

Fit for a King: Van Dyck at the Court of Charles I
Jacqui Ansell



If Anthony Van Dyck had not been invited to the court of King Charles I, the stiff body language of Jacobean portraiture may never have been enlivened by Renaissance values and given rise to the splendour of Baroque. We'll explore the way Van Dyck's male sitters exuded elegance, and why - with his depiction of sumptuous satins and silks - he was hailed as 'the first that 'ere put 'ladies' dress into a careless romance'.

Jacqui read History of Art and Theory at the University of Essex then gained an MA in History of Dress from the Courtauld Institute. She lectures regularly for the public programs of the National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and Wallace Collection. She's an expert on Court Dress and Grand Tour portraiture. She is currently writing books on Fashion in National Gallery paintings, and on Vincent Van Gogh's time spent in England in 1876.

Thursday 7 October

How to Look Slowly: Impressionism
Joanne Rhymer



To appreciate the Impressionists' works, we need to slow down. While the paintings might seem to capture a fleeting, fugitive moment, they were often the result of careful observation and planning. Looking slowly is to engage deeply, to enjoy the evocation of transitory effects which the artist was keen to reproduce. This presentation focuses on a small selection of works, with particular attention to the innovations of the style.

After completing an MA at University College London, Joanne accepted various roles at London's National Gallery, including Head of Adult Learning Programs. In a freelance capacity, she has worked as an educator for many London galleries and institutions including Tate, the Hayward Gallery, Sotheby's Institute of Art, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Wallace Collection. Her areas of speciality include 19th-century and early 20th-century French art.

Thursday 11 November

AGM and The Ten Great Houses of the Arts and Crafts Movement—David Cole



Some of the world's most enduring architectural masterpieces are the grand houses created under the design ideals of the flourishing Arts and Crafts Movement, first arising in Britain in the middle of the 19th century. We'll look at the finest architecture that the Movement produced over its fifty-year span, drawing on the design and political philosophies of such luminaries of the age as William Morris and John Ruskin.

David Cole is a practising architect and design director with a major Australian-based international architectural practice. He has designed projects throughout Australia, Japan, Thailand, China, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand. David has had a long-term fascination with the Arts and Crafts movement, especially its architecture, history, philosophy, work and legacy, and he has published several books on the subject.

About us

ArtsNational Melbourne is part of an Australia-wide association dedicated to connecting people and enriching lives through the appreciation of the arts.

Who are our lecturers? Our lecturers are international or local presenters, recognised experts and passionate in their field of interest.

Where and when do we meet? Ian Woolf Auditorium, Carey Baptist Grammar School, Gate 1, 349 Barkers Road, Kew 3101

Lectures are on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and finish with a light supper. Guests of members are most welcome. Attendance must be booked on the TryBooking website.

Guests: $35 Members of other ArtsNational Societies: $30
Students/Under 25y: $20

Annual membership:

Single membership $210 Double membership $400
Students/Under 25y $120

How to join:

- Scan the QR code on the front cover
- Email artsnationalmelbourne@gmail.com
- Call Veronica Rickard mobile: 0408 113 669

All photos supplied by our lecturers

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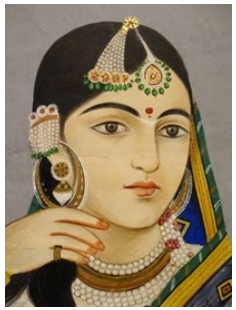
2027 Art Lecture Series



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Thursday 4 March

Art of The Mughal World
Georgina Bexon



Return to the golden era of Mughal rule, marked by a unique flowering of art and architecture, unrivalled in opulence. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, these mighty emperors were dedicated patrons of skilled artists, whose creativity produced breathtaking artworks and monuments, fusing Persian, European and indigenous Indian influences, from Mughal miniatures to the exquisite design of imperial palaces and tombs, that enhanced the magnificence and renown of the Mughal court.

Georgina is an international art historian specialising in South Asian art. She holds a BA in Art History, an MA in Arts Management and Policy, and an MA in Art History. She is a Consultant Art Historian at the Oriental Club in London and an official tour guide at Tate Modern. Georgina also presents at leading art institutions and conferences, most recently in New York, Paris and Lisbon.

Thursday 8 April

An Intimate History of the Art Gallery of New South Wales—Steven Miller



Since its foundation as an Academy of Art in 1871, the Art Gallery of New South Wales has evolved into a leading international art museum. Steven Miller's book The Exhibitionists is the first comprehensive history ever published of this much-loved institution. In this lecture he will delve into the intrigues and the passionate debates, the great talents and the big personalities that have made the Gallery what it is today.

Steven Miller was head of the National Art Archive at the Art Gallery of New South Wales up until 2023. He wrote the first history of the Gallery, which was published to celebrate its 150th anniversary. He has worked in commercial and public galleries since the 1980s and published extensively on art, including the widely popular Dogs in Australian Art. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Thursday 13 May

Noel Coward: The Man Behind the Mask
Simon Whitehouse



Noel Coward was one of the most astonishing cultural figures of the previous century, and his career charts the history of 20th century British theatre. On the surface he seemed elegant, flamboyant, swanning about while dropping acerbic one-liners like cigarette ash, but his tumultuous love life gave him insight into the passion and pain of human relationships, and in his plays, songs and poems he gave us deep observations of class and society.

Simon is a (recovering) actor, lecturer, and award-winning London "Blue Badge" guide. He's been a guide/lecturer at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Opera House, for the BBC and the National Gallery. Simon is an adjunct professor for several US college study abroad programs, teaching aspects of British history and culture. He's lectured on English literature and British theatre, and he's ready to weave a wonderful story on the life of Noel Coward.

Thursday 10 June

Aboriginal Art from Rock Art to Today
Sally Butler

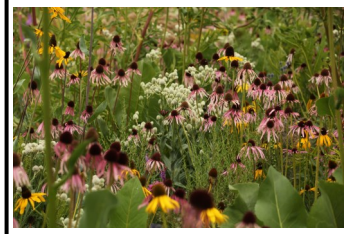


What is the origin of the modern Aboriginal art movement, developing since the 1970s? And how does it maintain its connection to visual traditions, going back to rock art created many thousands of years ago? Drawing on examples of Indigenous art from the Central Desert, North Queensland, the Kimberleys and Arnhem Land, Sally will show us how cultural traditions are reinvented and reinvigorated through the innovative art of today.

Sally is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Queensland. She has been a Senior Education Officer at the Queensland Art Gallery, and an Associate Editor and feature writer for Art Collector magazine. She has published widely in Australian and international journals and authored several books on Indigenous visual arts. She was author and curator of the internationally touring exhibition Our Way, Contemporary Aboriginal Art from Lockhart River.

Thursday 8 July

Paradise Lost and Restored: 400 years of Garden Design in Oxfordshire— Timothy Walker



Founded at the beginning of the 17th century, the Oxford Botanic Garden has borne witness to 400 years of change, in the art of gardening, and occasionally in the science of botany. We'll examine the notion that one of the motivations for garden design remains the desire to create paradise on Earth, not solely in a Biblical sense, but also in a clear vision of what we would like the world to resemble.

Between 1988 to 2014, Timothy was director (Horti Praefectus) at the Oxford Botanic Garden, during which time it won four gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and a Queen's Anniversary Prize. In 1985 he was awarded a Master of Horticulture. In 2010 he presented a three-part series of films on the history of botany on BBC4. Since 2014 he has been a Senior College Lecturer in Plant Biology at Somerville College, Oxford.

Thursday 12 August

Great Female Artists of the Avant-Garde: From Embroidery to the Revolution—Dr Natalia Murray



A lecture dedicated to the amazons of the Russian avant-garde, such as Natalia Goncharova, whose art challenged traditional aesthetic values and redefined the boundaries between art and life. Working almost entirely within the male exhibition-and-sales paradigm, these women were revolutionary in their art and politics, seizing the new freedoms of the early decades of the 20th century to pave a path from primitivism to cubism and from representation to abstraction.

Natalia was born in St Petersburg where she gained a BA and MA in the History of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts. In 2015 she was awarded a PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art, where she currently works as an independent curator and lecturer. She has curated major exhibitions in London and Moscow, written books and articles, and featured in many BBC art programs and documentaries.