2027 Lecture Program



Saturday, 6 March 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Colin Shindler
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am- Studio 1, HOTA Central
Topic: *"Casablanca: The Making of a Legend."*



In The original casting was not Humphrey Bogart but Ronald Reagan, not Ingrid Bergman but Warner Brothers contract actress Ann Sheridan. Ingrid Bergman was annoyed because the scriptwriters could never make up their minds if her character was going to end up by leaving Casablanca with Victor Laszlo or with Rick. Bogart had no confidence in himself as a romantic hero. The film's composer, Max Steiner, hated "You Must Remember This." And yet it worked. It won the Best Picture Oscar for 1943. And it still works. There will be plenty of illustrations to demonstrate why Casablanca remains one of the greatest romantic movies ever produced.



Biography: Colin Shindler has been lecturing on American and British social and cultural history for over 30 years. He was awarded his PhD at Cambridge University and subsequently lectured on film for their History Faculty between 1998 and 2019 exploring its relationship to modern British and American social and cultural history. He also teaches a variety of adult education courses at Madingley, Cambridge, and Higham Hall in Cumbria and has lectured on cruises. Between 1975 and 1999 he pursued a wide-ranging career as a writer and producer in television, radio and film. He won a BAFTA award for his production of A Little Princess. His production of Young Charlie Chaplin was nominated for a US Prime Time Emmy. He wrote the screenplay for the feature film Buster and was the producer of various television dramas such as Lovejoy and Wish Me Luck. He has written three novels as well as numerous television scripts and radio plays but regards his greatest cultural contribution as choosing the title music for the police series Juliet Bravo. His most recent radio play to be broadcast on Radio 4 was Leni Goes to Hollywood, about the German film director Leni Riefenstahl. Other radio plays for R4 included How To Be An Internee (about P.G. Wodehouse) and one on Private Eye & The Profumo Affair (Rumours). He is the author of Barbed Wire and Cucumber Sandwiches: The Controversial South Africa Cricket Tour of 1970 which was short listed for the MCC/Wisden Cricket Book of the Year in 2021. He is best known for his childhood memoir Manchester United Ruined My Life which was short listed for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award. His other publications include Hollywood Goes To War: Films & American Society 1939-1952 and Hollywood in Crisis: Films & American Society 1929-1939. His next book is called Boom!: The Story of a Generation.

EXTRA LECTURE

Saturday, 6 March 2027



The Arts Society Lecturer: Colin Shindler
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Topic: *"The Curious Life & Films of Alfred Hitchcock"*
Cost: Members $35 / Non-Members $45



Alfred Hitchcock directed more than fifty films. His career began in the silent era and ended in the age of cable and satellite television. He was an innovator with a distinctive individual style. There have been many directors who have tried to emulate Hitchcock, but none have surpassed him in the genre of suspense which he defined. This lecture will analyse his films in the context of his life and attempt to discover just why Hitchcock's films have endured so successfully for so long. It will start with his British films The Lodger and The Lady Vanishes, move through his Hollywood triumphs of Rebecca, Notorious, Rear Window and Vertigo and conclude with Psycho and the slow decline that began thereafter.

Saturday, 10 April 2027

Australian Lecturer: Dominique Millar
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am – Studio 1, HOTA Central
Topic: *"Italian Women Artists of the Early-Modern Period"*



In both a society and a profession historically defined by men, how did women suddenly begin to emerge as artists in late sixteenth-century Italy? We will examine the influence of the rise of etiquette in the courts of Europe and how this gave greater agency to women in these elite environments, and in turn how it may have covertly affected the role of women in both the arts and letters. We will conclude with the lives of women artists in the more liberal academic environment of the university town of Bologna, which produced as many as sixty such individuals, from the sculptor Properzia de' Rossi to the acclaimed painter Elisabetta Sirani.



Biography: Dominique Millar has a reputation for being an effortless communicator, with his art tours and courses regularly described as meticulously researched, relaxed and informative.
The high degree of scholarship that defines Dominique's work stems in part from his two Master's degrees, in late sixteenth-century Italian art and in art curatorship. Dominique brings this in-depth knowledge of art history together with a hands-on approach to art and culture, having trained for six years in traditional European classical drawing and painting techniques at Sydney's Julian Ashton Art School. He was also the recipient of the school's prestigious Sir William Dobell Scholarship for Classical Drawing and Painting.Dominique has exhibited at a number of Australia's oldest commercial galleries and has been a finalist in numerous art prizes. His love of art and connoisseurship led him to bring together a substantial private collection of Old Master, Australian and Japanese drawings, paintings and prints, allowing him to bridge the gap between art history and its material reality. Having worked at well-known Australian museums and galleries, Dominique regularly delivers a diverse range of art history tours and practical fine art courses for Limelight Arts Travel, Sydney's WEA, regional galleries, independent art schools and art societies.

EXTRA LECTURE

Saturday, 10 April 2027

Independent Australian Lecturer: Gerard Carney
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Topic: *"The First European Artwork of Australia"*
Cost: Members $35 / Non-Members $45







The first images of Australia and of its people, animals and plants were made in the 17th century before anyone understood even the size or shape of the continent. The earliest images were coastal profiles of Tasmania drawn by the Dutch on Abel Tasman's voyage in 1642. While the earliest image of the First Australians (below) appeared in the bestseller published by the Englishman, William Dampier, after his first visit to Western Australia in 1688. Nearly a century later, the first professional artwork of Australia was made by Sydney Parkinson on Cook's voyage in 1770. He was followed three decades later by the English and French artists on the expeditions of Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin. Their beautiful artwork provides our only glimpse of Australia either before or at the cusp of white settlement.
Sydney Parkinson's image (above) of two Gweagal warriors challenging Cook's landing at Botany Bay is the earliest image of the First Australians "from direct observation".

Biography: Gerard Carney was born in Brisbane in 1959 and spent most of his career as a professor of constitutional law at Bond University on the Gold Coast before being appointed Dean of the Law School at the University of Queensland. He has a law degree (LLB 1st Class Hons, QIT), a Masters degree in law (London Univ) and a PhD (Bond). His particular areas of legal expertise were on the constitutions of the Australian States and parliamentary privilege. He was invited by the High Court of Australia to deliver its annual lecture in 2014, the topic of which "The history of the Australian State Borders", was made into a TV documentary in 2022 ("The State We're In"), compered by the renowned Australian journalist, Ray Martin.
Based on the Gold Coast, Gerard has just completed a book on the history of the charting of the first outline map of Australia – a history spanning from 1606 to 1822. This book relates, from published sources, the stories of both the very first European explorers who charted the Australian coastline (including their artists) and those of Australia's First Peoples who encountered them. He is a consultant to the Australian National Maritime Museum. Since 2024, Gerard has been engaged by several cruise lines as a lecturer on their Australian and New Zealand cruises.
As a graduate of the New York School of Interior Design (2015), Gerard's next book is on the relationship between political rulers and architectural and interior design from classical times to the present.

Saturday, 15 May 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Dr Susan Kay-Williams
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am - Studio 1, HOTA Central
Topic: *"Five coronations, three weddings and a funeral – the royal commissions of the Royal School of Needlework."*

The RSN's royal connections began from the outset when Princess Helena became its President and in 1875 Queen Victoria became its Patron. This lecture tells the story of the RSN's royal connections and especially focuses on the RSN's role in the past five coronations: Edward VII, George V, George VI, Elizabeth II and Charles III and the work we did for each of them. Learn why the RSN made the funeral pall for Queen Victoria and of the weddings we worked on from Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester in 1935 to the Princess of Wales in 2011.



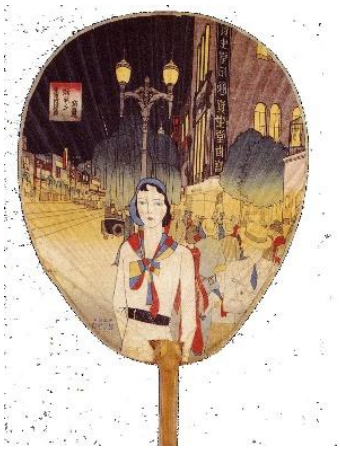




Biography: For 17 years from 2007 to 2024 **Susan Kay-Williams** was Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Chartered Institute of Marketing and in 2015 was made a Fellow of the Society of Dyers and Colourists in recognition of her work on the history of dyes. Susan has a longstanding interest in textiles, especially colour, and published her first book, The Story of Colour in Textiles (Bloomsbury) in 2013. She has extensive lecturing experience across the world as well as for the V&A and across the UK. In 2022 she published An Unbroken Thread: the 150 year history of the Royal School of Needlework, a second edition of which was published in 2024 to include the RSN's work on the coronation. She is currently the President of the Society of Dyers and Colourists. and is now getting back to research into the history of colour in textiles

Saturday, 19 June 2027

Australian Lecturer: Dr Toby Slade
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am – Studio 1, HOTA Central
Topic: *"Tokyo's Flapper Age."*



In the 1920s and 30s, Tokyo witnessed the rise of the "modern girl" and "modern boy." This lecture explores this vibrant urban moment, where cafés, cinemas, and fashion cultures converged, producing new forms of self-expression and anxiety, as young people embraced modernity while unsettling established norms of gender and behaviour. Set against the aftershocks of the Great Kantō Earthquake, the windfall wealth of World War I, and the rise of mass-produced silk and vibrant graphic arts, this moment of urban exuberance unfolded in the shadow of tightening social control and the quiet advance of militarism and fascist ideology.



Biography: Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney, **Toby Slade** is a fashion researcher in the UTS Imagining Fashion Futures Lab and an authority on Japanese fashion and popular culture. His current research focuses on the history, contemporary forms and changing meaning of luxury in Japan, revealing shifts in definitions of social value and patterns of consumption throughout history.Toby joined UTS after more than 16 years at the University of Tokyo and Bunka Gakeun University in Japan. He is the author of two books: Japanese Fashion: A Cultural History (Berg, 2009), the first English-language book to explore the entire historical sweep of fashion and clothing in Japan, with a particular emphasis on the modernity of Japanese clothing and its implications for contemporary theories of fashion. This work cemented Toby's reputation as an authority on Japanese fashion history. His second book, Introducing Japanese Popular Culture (Routledge, 2018), looks at fashion as a central component of popular culture.Toby is a founding member of the Research Collective for Decolonialising Fashion, an international group that aims to construct alternative narratives in the field of fashion research to challenge the dominant Eurocentric discourse. His current research includes a body of work that imagines non-western decolonised versions of fashion history. One project traces the history of Japanese luxury consumption and the shift back to more indigenous concepts and practices.

Saturday, 17 July 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Chris Aslan
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am
Topic: *"Unravelling the Silk Road."*



In this lecture we explore the birth of the Silk Road and how silk fuelled trade in goods, foods, art, inventions, commodities, religions, fashions and so much more, ushering in the first era of globalisation.
We explore how silk is woven into beautiful fabrics, such as, atlas, velvet, and adras, and how fabric was a major signifier of wealth and stratifying sedentary society. How did one item of women's clothing spark a culture war which led to public burnings of silk? We marvel at the dowry embroideries produced in Bukhara and the magical and amuletic protection woven into most clothing. We explore how silk stratified society, through stunning robes and turbans, and Chris gives a brief overview of the silk carpet workshop he founded in Khiva, Uzbekistan...



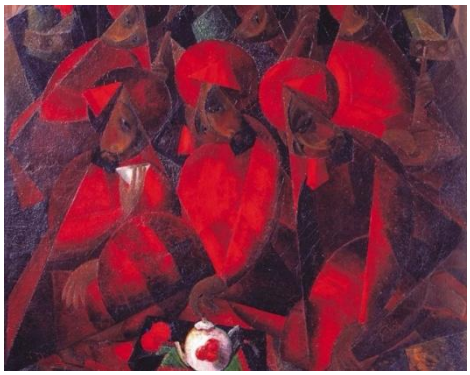
Biography: Chris Aslan was born in Turkey and was raised there and in war-torn Beirut. This set him on a course for an adventurous life and he has spent two years at sea, and lived in Central Asia for 15 years. He started off in Khiva, a desert oasis in Uzbekistan, establishing a UNESCO workshop reviving fifteenth century carpet designs and embroideries, and becoming the largest non-government employer in town. He was deported as part of an anti-Western purge, and took a year in Cambridge to write A Carpet Ride to Khiva. Chris then spent several years in the Pamirs mountains of Tajikistan, training yak herders to comb their yaks for their cashmere-like down. Next came a couple more years in Kyrgyzstan living in the world's largest natural walnut wood and establishing a wood-carving workshop. Since then, Chris has studied and rowed at Oxford and now divides his time between lecturing for the Arts Society, writing fiction and non-fiction in his mountainous home overlooking the sea in North Cyprus where he is overrun by cats, and returning to Central Asia to lead tours whenever he can, having left a large chunk of his heart there. His latest book is Unravelling the Silk Road.

EXTRA LECTURE

Saturday, 17 July 2027



The Arts Society Lecturer: Chris Aslan
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Topic: *"Banned: Savitsky and the secret hoard of Avante Garde Art."*
Cost: Members $35 / Non-Members $45



Despite the flourishing of Russian Avante Garde Art during the first 30 years of the 20th Century, as Stalin rose to power, he banned all but Socialist Realist expressions of art. To own anything else was dangerous enough but to start collecting it was unthinkable. And yet this is what Igor Savitsky did. He travelled throughout the Soviet Union, buying, bribing and cajoling until he'd amassed the second largest collection of Russian Avante Garde art in the world. The State Museum of Karakalpakstan, situated near the south shores of the Aral Sea is now a Mecca for art lovers. It's remote location in the desert oasis of Khorezm, meant that Savitsky was able to get away with such subversive activity, because even the authorities in Moscow were a little hazy as to where exactly Karakalpakstan was. Savitsky promoted Russian artists sent to Central Asia in exile and the works of the first Central Asian artists to paint their own people and landscapes.





Saturday, 14 August 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Dr Julia Musgrave
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am Studio 1 – HOTA Central
Topic: *"Salvador Dali: 20th century renaissance artist."*



'The secret of my influence has always been that it remained secret' – Salvador Dalí. Like the Renaissance artists he admired, Salvador Dalí did not restrict his creative output to painting but was also a writer, poet, engraver, sculptor, architect, photographer, theatre designer, and jewellery designer. As well as designing the latter, Dalí selected the materials to be used, focusing not just on the colours or the value of the material, but also on their symbolic meanings. Jewels such as 'El cor reial' (1953, The Royal Heart) have become iconic works and are considered to be as exceptional as his paintings. He also was an omnivorous reader who was as interested in science as he was in art and in this his work also reflects the Renaissance artist he admired. This lecture explores the work of Dalí the designer and science enthusiast – a Renaissance artist in the 20th century.



Biography: Julia Musgrave got her first degree in Chemical Engineering and went on to become a Chartered Information Systems Engineer and IT project manager. In 2008 she decided that life was too short for just one career and decided to become an art historian. She now has a Graduate Diploma in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art and an MLitt in 'Art, Style and Design: Renaissance to Modernism, c.1450 – c.1930' from the University of Glasgow. She gained her PhD at the University of York for her research into the involvement of Roger Fry and the Bloomsbury Group and the social networks of the British art world in the development of the Contemporary Art Society from 1910 to 1939. She teaches Art History at the City Literary Institute (City Lit) and the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution (HLSI) in London.



EXTRA LECTURE



Saturday, 14 August 2027



The Arts Society Lecturer: Dr Julia Musgrave
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Topic: *"Sex and the City – Hogarth and 18th century London."*
Cost: Members $35 / Non-Members $45



This lecture examines Hogarth's Marriage à la Mode and other 'modern moral subjects'. It looks at how the artist used his work to wage war against London's sex trade and child poverty as part of his personal crusade to establish modern urban life as an appropriate subject for high art. Insights into the darker side of life in 18th century London are blended with the story of how Hogarth worked his way up from an apprenticed engraver to successful painter and philanthropist.

Saturday, 11 September 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Alan Read



Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am – Studio 1
Topic: *"The Parthenon Sculptures or, How Lord Elgin Lost his Marbles."*

In the two centuries since they were removed from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin, the meaning and significance of the 'Elgin marbles' has changed dramatically. From architectural decoration to disputed cultural objects this lecture looks at the response to them over their time in Britain, from the original controversy over their purchase to the current debate surrounding the restitution of the marbles to the new Acropolis Museum in Athens. Never far from the headlines, the aim will be to inform your view: should they stay or should they go?



Biography: Alan Read has a master's and first-class honours degree in History of Art from Birkbeck College, University of London. He is a gallery guide at Tate Britain and regularly lectures at both London Tates. For twenty years he was a gallery guide and lecturer at the National Portrait Gallery and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. He also works as a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide.



EXTRA LECTURE



Saturday, 11 September 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Alan Read
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 11.15 am – 12.15 pm
Topic: *"Phrases and Sayings, an Etymology of the City of London."*
Cost: Members $35 / Non-Members $45

The English language is rich in idioms, phrases and sayings which are part of everyday speech yet seldom do we consider their original meaning. This is an exploration of historical etymology, often traceable to the City of London. This lecture certainly won't be a 'nine day wonder' and you won't have to 'double cross' anyone to come along. Every 'son of a gun' will think it's 'the best thing since sliced bread'. Even if you have to 'rob Peter to pay Paul' and it's 'raining cats and dogs' you'd be 'barking mad' to miss it..





Saturday, 16 October 2027

The Arts Society Lecturer: Cindy Polemis
Venue: Cinema 1, HOTA Central
Time: Lecture: 9.30 am Morning Tea: 10.30 am – Studio 1, HOTA Central
Topic: *"Paris and the Belle Epoque."*

The Moulin Rouge immediately evokes the Belle Epoque - a period of French, and especially Parisian history around the turn of the 19th century which pulsated with artistic energy, technological and scientific innovations, risqué entertainment and boundless optimism; but was there a dark side as well? We explore the golden era of Paris.





Biography: Cindy Polemis is an art historian, independent lecturer and art guide. She has a BA in Modern History from Oxford University and as a mature student she went back to university to study first for a BA and then for a Masters in History of Art at Birkbeck College, London University. Before that she spent many years as a radio producer and presenter for the BBC World Service working in news and current affairs. Since 2016 Cindy has worked as a lecturer and an official art guide at Tate Britain and Tate Modern. She has also been a trustee at the Museum of the Home, formerly the Geffrye Museum. Cindy has accumulated a wide range of art historical knowledge ranging from 18th European and British art to the contemporary international art scene. She has been an official guide for both Frieze Masters and Frieze Art Fairs in London. She is particularly keen to draw parallels with art and social history and her lectures are accessible and engaging, drawing out the stories of art and artists which are steeped in human emotions and experiences which we all share.

This programme is accurate at the time of printing but unforeseen changes may arise during the year.
Check details on our webpage www.artsnational.au/societies/gold-coast-bundall/

For 2027 Membership: https://www.trybooking.com/DLZGU