

## Lecture Programme 2018

### Pots and Frocks, The world of Grayson Perry Ian Swankie

10 Jan 18



Widely known for his appearances dressed as his feminine alter ego, Claire, Grayson Perry is now a core part of the art establishment. His works of ceramics, textiles, tapestries and prints are highly sought after. He is able to tackle difficult subjects in a poignant yet witty way.

### The Silver Thread: Silver filigree and traditional art in Kosovo

28 Feb



**Elizabeth Gowing** .Elizabeth lived in Kosovo for many years. From the early Kosovan silver mines through the twentieth century politics over the mines which resulted in a war and a golf course, a silver thread winds through Kosovo's history. In the country's cultural capital, Prizren, where a seventh generation of filigree artisans use 'filum' and 'granum', zigzags, 'mouse-tooth' designs and other twists and turns

### The Making of Assisi

14 March



**Janet Robson** explains that in artistic terms, the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi is the most important medieval church in Italy. Every inch of its walls and vaults are covered in frescoes by great masters. The sanctuary of the Lower Church was repainted in the early fourteenth century by Giotto and Pietro Lorenzetti.

### The Benin Bronzes: Masterpieces of African Art. Claire Walsh

11 April



The antique bronze sculptures from the West African kingdom of Benin astounded critics when they were first seen in Europe in the late 1890s. This lecture reveals the symbolism and ritual use of the bronzes, as well as investigating the response of avant-garde artists of the early 20th century. The lecture will consider if the bronzes should be returned to Benin.

### Foreigners in London 1520 – 1677

9 May

#### Leslie Primo

Why were foreign painters preferred by the aristocracy in London to native-born English painters? Why did foreigners come in the first place? What was their motivation and what was the impact of foreigners in London on English art and art practice? This lecture will look at how "foreigner" artists influenced the British School of painting.



### Thomas Heatherwick- The Leonardo da Vinci of our times Anthea Streeter

13 June



Heatherwick's work received world-wide coverage in 2012 when with his studio team he designed, amongst many iconic items the Olympic Cauldron at the London Olympics. The giant ring of fire rising up from the centre of the Olympic Stadium was a memorable sight, and as part the lecture we'll look at how they achieved that spectacular moment.

### Laurence of Arabia– Excavating the legend

11 July

#### Neil Faulkner

On the basis of sensational new evidence from archaeological fieldwork, Neil will contrast the legend of Lawrence of Arabia with the true story of what happened in the famous desert war of 1916 to 1918. Is the legend a myth was Lawrence, as some claim, a liar and a charlatan? Or does the legend reflect reality? Was he, in fact, a brilliant military commander and a sincere advocate of the Arab national cause?



### Aboriginal Art

12 Sept

#### Rebecca Hossack

Rock, Bark, Ochre: the story of Aboriginal art in the culturally distinct communities of the north of Australia; an extraordinary story of continuous artistic endeavour from rock-paintings dating back 50,000 years, to modern work done on bark in natural ochres.



### Chinese imperial court costume

10 Oct

#### David Rosier

This lecture focuses on the costume and dress accessories that would have been worn for formal occasions or informally, at the Imperial Court during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). David will bring costumes for display.



### Collecting the grand tour

14 Nov

**Marc Allum**, a BBC Antiques Roadshow Expert discusses the influence of antiquity on collectors, fashion and the foundation of our major museums, illustrated with an enlightening trip through the world of collecting Grand Tour souvenirs.



### That pretty German toy

12 Dec

#### Peter Medhurst

The Christmas tree is arguably the most iconic aspect of our midwinter celebrations, yet how much do we actually know about its origins and history. Music performed includes: Adam lay ybounden, Jesus Christ the Apple Tree – Elizabeth Postern, O Tannenbaum, O Little Town of Bethlehem, O Holy Night – Adolphe Adam.



### Visits 2018

**City visit to the College of Arms.** Wednesday 28 February

**Royal Holloway.** Monday 11 June

**St Mary's Bamber gardens and Lancing College.** Monday 16 July

**Purcell Club Westminster Abbey.** Saturday 17 November

Other visits will be arranged during the year.

### TOURS 2018

**Isle of Wight.** 14 to 18 May

**Romania.** 16 to 22 September