

**Rene Lalique:
Master of Art Nouveau Jewellery and Art Deco
Anne Anderson**

Renee Lalique's career began in the early 1890s as the designer of the finest Art Nouveau jewellery. In 1907, however, he designed the first customised perfume bottle for Coty. The public loved the idea and a craze began. His glass is regarded as some of the finest ever.



8 Jan

**Raphael: A Master in the Making
A Talk on the 500th anniversary of his death
Sian Walters**

Raphael was one of the giants of the High Renaissance in Italy. He died tragically young but during his relatively short life Raphael managed to move from humble commissions around his home town of Urbino to the coveted position of one of the leading artists at the court of Pope Julius II.



12 Feb

**An Illustrated Dickens
Rosalind Whyte**

In the 150th Anniversary of the death of Dickens, this talk explores artists' interpretations of some of Dickens' popular characters. It also looks at portraits of Dickens himself over the years and how images of him changed as he became an increasingly important figure.



11 Mar

**Gold of The Gods:
The Search for El Dorado
Chloe Sayer**

Gold in South America had a spiritual importance. In Peru and Colombia goldsmiths made some of the most spectacular treasures of the ancient world. Europeans, by contrast, saw gold as a commodity: the ultimate symbol of wealth and so, for decades, they searched in vain for the kingdom of El Dorado.



8 Apr

Lecture Programme 2020

**Wonders of the Roman Empire - Off Limit
Sam Moorhead**

Recent turmoil in much of the Near East and North Africa means that many of the most impressive sites in the Roman Empire can no longer be visited. This lecture will focus on Roman cities which have been largely destroyed, sites which have been heavily looted and places which are now too dangerous to visit.



13 May

**Hand Grenades like Cartier Clips:
A Talk on Lee Miller by her son Anthony Penrose**

Two genres shaped the life of Lee Miller, Surrealism and the world of fashion. She became the top model for many international artists and photographers, including Roland Penrose, later to be her husband. She emerged as a fashion photographer in her own right, metamorphosing into a war correspondent and finally a combat photographer before returning to her role as a photographer for Vogue in the post war years.



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10 June

**The Queen of Instruments:
The Lute Within Old Masters
Adam Busiakiewicz**

The lute holds a special place in the history of art. This talk will look at the lute, and other musical instruments, as devices to express various aspects of the human character in the art of the Italian Renaissance, the sixteenth century paintings by the likes of Holbein and Titian and seventeenth century interior scenes.



8 July

Adam will play his lute to accompany this talk.

**The Magic of Prague: Czech Art and Culture
Gavin Plumley**

In the 19th century the Czechs imagined a new future by means of art, architecture, literature and music. They re-conceived various artistic movements in specifically patriotic ways. This talk looks at decorative artist Mucha, artist Svoboda and composers Smetana and Dvořák to show how the Czechs created a capital fit for a new independent nation in 1918.



9 Sept

**The Borgias: the most Infamous Family in History.
A Talk by the acclaimed author Sarah Dunant**

They are famous for murder, poison, corruption and incest but in an age known for its brutality and corruption were the Borgias really so bad? This lecture reveals the real family that dominated the Papacy and Italian politics in the last decade of the 15th century.



14 Oct

**'The Bed' from Titian to Tracey Emin
Marie-Anne Mancio**

The bed has been the site of multiple encounters in art from Titian's stunning mythologies through Manet's Olympia, Picasso's nudes, and the abject of Tracey Emin's infamous 'My Bed'. This lecture explores the manifestations of the bed in the art of Caravaggio, Munch, Klimt, and others.



11 Nov

**Guilt and Gorgeousness
Barbara Askew**

On coming to the throne in 1820 George IV understood the majesty and splendour appropriate to the monarch of the most powerful country in the world. This lecture traces his developing taste as Prince of Wales, Regent and King and examines connections between his royal residences.



9 Dec