

Tuesday 8th September 2020

Irving Finkel

“Magic and Medicine in Mesopotamia”



Marie-Lan Nguyen (public domain)



Dr Irving Finkel, philologist and Assyriologist, wrote his PhD thesis on Babylonian exorcistic spells against demons.

Dr Finkel is a curator at the British Museum, in charge of cuneiform inscriptions on tablets of clay from ancient Mesopotamia, of which the Middle East Department has the largest collection- some 130,000 pieces – of any modern museum. He specializes in ancient Mesopotamian medicine and magic, and is also interested in literature, religion and the history of ideas. He is also interested in the history of board games throughout the world.

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Alexandra Epps

“Peggy Guggenheim and her impact on twentieth century art”



Ms Epps is an Official Guide and Lecturer at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and Guildhall Art Gallery among others. She co-authored the book Lord Mayor's Portraits 1983-2014 (2015). Alexandra's background is in design having practised as a graphic designer running her own design consultancy for many years.

Not only was Peggy Guggenheim ahead of her time but she was the woman who helped define it. The 'poor little rich girl' who changed the face of twentieth century art. She discovered and nurtured a new generation of artists producing a new kind of art. Through collecting not only art but the artists themselves, her life was as radical as her collection.

📅 Tuesday 10th November 2020

Julian Richards

“Prehistoric Potters”



Julian studied archaeology at Reading University and is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA) and a member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MIFA).

Archaeology Data Service

The first pots appeared in Britain about 6000 years ago and this lecture will chart the ways in which ceramic production has evolved from this time to the present day. From the hand-formed and bonfire-fired pots of our prehistoric ancestors to the products of both modern industry and individual craft potters.

📅 Tuesday 8th December 2020

Adam Busiakiewicz

“The Lute within Old Master Paintings”



Adam Busiakiewicz is an Art Historian, lutenist and lecturer. He regularly gives talks, tours and lectures at the Wallace Collection, and at the National Gallery.



The lute holds a special place in the history of art. This lecture looks at the lute, where it appears in paintings, and how it is used to express aspects of human character. Live lute music will be performed.



**** We have been fortunate in rescheduling the following lecture from May 2020.**

📅 Tuesday 15th December 2020

Andrew Prince

“From Downton to Gatsby, Jewellery & Fashion from 1890 - 1929”



Andrew was dazzled by jewels in the V & A, at the age of 9, and from 16 tutored in the subject by Antiques Road Show’s Ian Harris. He has designed jewellery for Harrods and many celebrities.



In 2012, he was chosen by the creators of Downton Abbey to supply a large collection of jewellery for the third series. The characters played by Maggie Smith, Shirley Maclaine, Elizabeth McGovern and Michelle Dockery were all adorned with elegant tiaras, combs, earrings and necklaces designed and created by him. He has recently been working on the jewellery for the forthcoming Downton film (scheduled to open in September 2019). He has also been inspired by the large amounts of fabulous jewellery that the American heiresses brought with them when they married into the English aristocracy in the early 20th century.

📅 Please note that our Autumn lectures may be delivered digitally via “zoom” with the assistance of The Arts Society – details will be confirmed at a later date.