

FRIENDS OF THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

WINTER 2019–2020

MEMBERS' EVENTS AND LECTURES AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

All lectures will be presented in the Ashmolean Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of 100 on each occasion, unless otherwise stated.

HOW TO BOOK

Lecture tickets can be booked online, over the phone and in person from the Museum.

Online: www.ashmolean.org/members-events

Phone: 01865 278 112

In Person: from the Museum Ticket Desk or main Museum Shop

We do not charge a booking fee regardless of which booking method you choose.

1. The Ashmolean in Egypt: Exploring Hierakonpolis

Fri 6 December 4pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served at 4pm and lecture starts at 4.30pm

The town mound of ancient Nekhen (Greek 'Hierakonpolis') is renowned for the fabulous discoveries made there by James Quibell and Frederick Green in 1897–99, including the spectacular 'Main Deposit' of early votive objects, many of which are now in the Ashmolean Museum. Liam McNamara, the Lisa and Bernard Selz Curator for Ancient Egypt and Sudan, will explore the history and development of the site and share the results of the Ashmolean's most recent archaeological fieldwork and research in the temple enclosure.

Organiser: Jane Young

2. Friends' Christmas Party

Mon 16 December 5.30pm | £27

Please refer to the separate flyer for all the information and how to book.

Organiser: Ros Nicholas

3. East–West Gallery Tour

Mon 13 January 5.30pm | £35

Drinks will be served in the Mallett Gallery after the tours and the event will finish at 8pm

Two of the Ashmolean's senior curators will lead exclusive tours of the Museum's galleries in this evening event. Catherine Whistler, Keeper of Western Art will discuss some of the treasures in the European Galleries, and Mallica Kumbera Landrus, Keeper of Eastern Art will explore the riches of the Eastern Art collection. To avoid overcrowding in the galleries, numbers will be limited to two groups of 20, which will change over half way through the evening.

Organiser: Tom Price. Tickets available: 40

4. Claude Monet, the Great War, and the Painting of the Water Lilies

Tue 21 January 10.30am | £20

Hot drinks and pastries served from 10.30am, lecture starts at 11am

Monet began the giant iconic images of his water pond in Giverny in 1914 at a time of personal turmoil and sadness. Then in his mid-seventies, he was one of the world's most famous and successful painters. However, he had virtually stopped painting following the deaths of both his wife and his eldest son and a diagnosis of cataracts. But it was during this period of sorrow and ill health that – as the guns roared on the Western Front – he began his most demanding and innovative paintings. Art historian and author, Ross King, will examine the personal and aesthetic motivations behind Monet's immense canvases and their legacy in 20th century art. This illustrated lecture will be based on his award-winning book 'Mad Enchantment', which will be available in the shop.

Organiser: Rosemary Wharton

5. The Techniques of Painting: from the Pre-Renaissance to the Renaissance and Beyond

Fri 7 February 2.45pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 2.45pm, lecture starts at 3.15pm

In this intriguing lecture, Anita Pepper will examine the methods and materials used by artists through the centuries, with specific examples from the Ashmolean collection. Starting with the 14th century Master of the Ashmolean's *Birth of the Virgin*, she will follow developments during the Renaissance, through to the 19th century, ending with the Pre-Raphaelites and the Impressionists. What bases did artists paint on, and how did they prepare these bases? What materials did they use to create their colours? What types of paint did they use, in particular egg tempera and oil, and with what effects? And how were these paints applied? The lecture will be followed by a tour to Galleries 42 and 43.

Organiser: Sue Hine

6. Sir Wilfred Thesiger and the Marsh Arabs

Tue 11 February 3pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3pm, lecture starts at 3.30pm

Sir Wilfred Thesiger has been acclaimed as the 20th century's greatest traveller and one of its greatest explorers. Illustrated with his superb photographs, *Arabian Sands* (1959) and the *Marsh Arabs* (1964) are classics of modern travel literature. He was a talented photographer whose 38,000 photographs were bequeathed to the Pitt Rivers Museum. This lecture covers the period of some eight years that he spent with the Marsh Arabs in Southern Iraq. Their way of life, now vanished, is captured in his remarkable photographs. Alexander Maitland, Thesiger's official biographer, was a close friend of Thesiger for 40 years. His talk will cover Thesiger's time with the Marsh Arabs and will be illustrated by photographs from the Pitt Rivers collection.

Organiser: Tom Price

7. Glowing Colour: from Turner to Whistler

Tue 10 March 10am | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 10am, lecture starts at 10.30am

The industrial supremacy of Victorian Britain is often perceived through the darkening filter of coal pollution. Yet it led to innovations such as the invention of vivid aniline dyes. There was a 'colour revolution' which came to prominence during the 1862 International Exhibition, a forgotten, yet key chromatic event with a huge impact on art, design and fashion. Matthew Winterbottom, Curator of 19th Century Decorative Arts at the Ashmolean, will talk to us about his work on the forthcoming 2022 exhibition about the Victorian fascination with colour.

Organiser: Sue Peach

8. Young Rembrandt

Tue 24 March 4pm | £22

Lecture starts at 4pm, followed by drinks in the Atrium from 5pm and a private view in the exhibition galleries until 6pm

An Van Camp, the Christopher Brown Assistant Keeper of Northern European Art at the Ashmolean, will give this lecture titled Young Rembrandt, in conjunction with our next special exhibition to open in Spring 2020. This is the first major show exclusively devoted to the early work of Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (1606–1669). It will reveal how Rembrandt's exceptional ability developed in the decade from 1624 to 1634. The rapid and spectacular blossoming of his talent in this period can be traced from painting to painting. We will see 40 paintings, 70 etchings and 10 drawings. It will include his earliest known work, *A Pedlar selling spectacles* and *History Painting with self-portrait*. As well as An Van Camp this exciting exhibition will be curated by Professor Christopher Brown, the Ashmolean's former director and an internationally recognised expert on Rembrandt's work, and Christiaan Vogelaar of Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden.

Organiser: Ros Nicholas

MEMBERS' TRIPS AND VISITS

To book a place for these trips and visits, please return the accompanying booking form by post.

Any queries or questions regarding these events should be directed to the Activities Team on foam@ashmus.ox.ac.uk or 01865 278172.

1. Apsley House and Wellington Arch

Wed 19 February | £50 or £40 for English Heritage Members (please bring EH membership card)

Depart from Redbridge P&R 8.30am, Taylorian 8.45am, Sandhills bus stop 9am | Return 3.30pm

Come and visit Wellington's palatial town house, presented much as it was in the Iron Duke's day. The grand rooms house over 200 paintings, including works by Velázquez and Canova, alongside sculptures, silver and porcelain. On arrival we will have refreshments, followed by a guided tour around the house. A short journey of 100 yards will then take us to the Wellington Arch, where there is an exhibition on each of the three floors – including one on Waterloo – concluding with a wonderful view at the top. Lunch is not included, but various venues are located nearby.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 50

Access: Both Apsley House and Wellington Arch have lifts though there is a short series of steps in Apsley House

2. British Museum – Troy, a myth or reality

Tue 3 March | £49; £35 for British Museum Members; £40 for Art Pass holders (please bring relevant cards)

Depart from Redbridge P&R 8.30am, Taylorian 8.45am, Sandhills bus stop 9.00 am | Return 3.30pm

Look at the breathtaking art that brings the story of Troy and the Trojan War to life. Examine the archaeological evidence that proves that there was a real Troy – and maybe some truth behind the mythological stories. On arrival in London we will have refreshments, followed by a free flow round the exhibition. Lunch is not included, but there are three eateries in the Museum of varying grandeur.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 50

Access: The British Museum is fully accessible.

3. Chichester Cathedral and Pallant House Gallery

Wed 18 March | £58

Depart from Redbridge P&R 8.30am, Taylorian 8.45am, Oxford Parkway P&R 9am | Return from Chichester 4pm

Chichester is a beautiful cathedral city with Roman origins. We shall begin our all-inclusive visit with refreshments, followed by a guided tour of the 12th century cathedral, concentrating on its wonderful art treasures, which include a Roman mosaic pavement, Romanesque reliefs, and modern works by Piper, Sutherland and Chagall. After a lunch of soup and sandwiches in the Dresden Room in the cathedral precinct we shall have a free flow visit to the nearby Pallant House Gallery with its stunning collection of 20th century art. There will be time to explore the city before departing for Oxford.

Organiser: Sue Hine. Tickets available : 48

Access: The buildings are all accessible. 10–15 minutes walking between venues.

FREE MEMBERS' EVENTS AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII

25 July 2019–12 January 2020

"Triumphant" – The Financial Times

"Feast of a show" – The Telegraph

"A marvellously engrossing exhibition" – The Sunday Times

Everything from the exquisite mosaics in the villas of the wealthy to the remains found in kitchen drains reveals what the people of Pompeii loved to eat and drink. The Ashmolean's 2019 summer exhibition will tell the story of this ancient Roman town's love affair with food.

When the ash from Mount Vesuvius began raining down on Pompeii in AD 79, people in the resort-town were engaged in typically Italian activities – eating, drinking and producing food. Located in the sunny paradise of southern Italy, Pompeii was sandwiched between lush vineyards and fertile orchards to one side and the bountiful waters of the Bay of Naples to the other. The town produced more wine, olive oil and fish-sauce than it could consume and exported its gourmet products across the Mediterranean.

Many of the objects, on loan from Naples and Pompeii, have never before left the country. They range from the luxury furnishings of the Roman dining room, to the carbonised food that was on the table when the volcano erupted.

MEMBERS-ONLY PRIVATE VIEW

8 January 2020, 6–8pm

Bring a guest for free to see *Last Supper in Pompeii* one final time before it closes on 12 January 2020 at our next Members-only private view.

No booking required. Just present your membership card as you arrive at the Museum via the St Giles entrance. Each (named and unnamed) Member may bring a guest free of charge. Further tickets are available for purchase at the exhibition shop for additional guests.

MEMBERS' WEEK

Mon 4 November–Sun 10 November 2019

Members' Week returns to the Ashmolean Museum in November to thank our Members all for their support, as well as to highlight the importance of their contributions to the Museum. Look out for a series of behind-the-scene events, lectures, special offers and bumper shop discounts at the Museum. The full programme and booking information can be found in the Members' Week 2019 leaflet, or online at ashmolean.org/members-week.

ANNUAL LECTURE: TIM REEVE

Wed 6 November, 6–7.30pm

Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, Worcester College

Tim Reeve, Deputy Director of the V&A, presents the development and evolution of the V&A beyond its traditional South Kensington home, as it seeks to rearticulate its founding mission of 'art and design for all', with ambitious plans for a new 'V&A East' museum and Collections and Research Centre in Stratford, east London. Booking information can be found in the Members' week 2019 leaflet, or online at ashmolean.org/members-events.

Make sure to keep up to date with Members' news, events and special offers. Let us know your email address by contacting us on **01865 278 016** or **membership@ashmus.ox.ac.uk**.