

FRIENDS OF THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

MEMBERS' EVENTS AND LECTURES AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

Most lectures will be presented in the Ashmolean Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of 95 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 – our ticketing line

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 Teaching of Art is the Teaching of all Things: John Ruskin and his School of Drawing

Fri 26 April 3.45pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3.45pm and lecture starts at 4.15pm

2019 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Ruskin. He was one of the most influential art critics of the Victorian era as well as being a fine draughtsman, an author on a wide range of subjects, an art patron and a philanthropist. He was the first Slade Professor of Fine Art in Oxford and founded the Ruskin School of Drawing. Professor Robert Hewison is a British cultural historian who is one of the foremost authorities on the life and works of John Ruskin. His lecture will inform us about the life and work of this towering figure of Victorian society, including his close links with Oxford.

Organiser: Tom Price

2. Jeff Koons at the Ashmolean

Tue 7 May 4pm | £22

Drinks served after the lecture followed by a Private View of the Exhibition

Dr Xa Sturgis, Director of the Ashmolean, gives this lecture *Jeff Koons at the Ashmolean*. Koons, a superstar of the contemporary art world, was enticed to Oxford by the Edgar Wind Society for Art History after winning their contemporary art prize. The Society was established and run by students of Oxford University to make art history accessible, fun and exciting. The show is co-curated by Norman Rosenthal and fourteen of the seventeen works will be exhibited in the UK for the first time. The works, including his most well-known sculptures and paintings, span Koons' entire career. This unique opportunity to see his work will surely provoke conversations among those who see it.

Organiser: Ros Nicholas

3. The Spirit of Place in British Art, from Bacon to Gormley

Tue 14 May 4pm | £20

Drinks served after the lecture

Popular art historian and lecturer Mary Acton examines the Post-War period in British Art, explaining how a questioning of modernism has led to some interesting developments, particularly in the context of land art. This is a period marked by a move away from traditional interpretations of landscape and it has been especially important in sculpture, as reflected in the work of British artists like Richard Long and David Nash. Behind the scenes, the Ashmolean continues to acquire modern works and this talk will make reference to British Art in the collection.

Organiser: Jane Young

4. Understanding Ravenna

Thu 6 June 3pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3pm, lecture starts at 3.30pm and book signing at 4.30pm

Michael Starks will give us an illustrated talk based on his recently published book *Understanding Ravenna* which will be available for purchase on the day. Ravenna remains home to some of the finest art and architecture of the Late Antiquity period. UNESCO has listed eight of the monuments as World Heritage sites: three churches, two baptisteries, two chapels and a mausoleum. It is the splendour of the mosaics that gives Ravenna its special reputation. They were created in a social environment marked by civic stability and wealth. Yet these are not the characteristics associated with this era of Italian history, which was marked by major political upheavals. This is the question that Michael Sparks will set out to answer in his lecture.

Organiser: Sue Peach

5. Midsummer Magic: A celebration of 50 years of the Friends of the Ashmolean Museum, the Humanities and Sustainability

Mon 10 June 6.30pm | £40 | Evening ends at 9pm

This event will take place at Worcester College

2019 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Ashmolean. To mark the occasion we shall have a very special celebration in the magnificent new Nazrin Shah lecture theatre of Worcester College, recently shortlisted for the Stirling Prize. Set in the lovely grounds of one of Oxford's most beautiful colleges, it will be at its ravishing best on a midsummer evening. Sir Jonathan Bate, Provost of the College will be our lecturer and during the wine and canapé reception that follows, Dr Xa Sturgis, Director of the Ashmolean will weave his own special magic over the occasion. Guests will be free to wander through the beautiful gardens as they leave.

Organiser: Tom Price. Tickets available: 100

6. Social Afternoon with Quiz at the Ashmolean

Tue 25 June 3pm | £15

Hot drinks and cake will be served at 3pm and the event will finish at 5pm

Join us for tea, cakes and the first Friends' Quiz! Enjoy the double opportunity of showing off your knowledge of the Museum, as well as learning new facts. We can mix teams with new Members and long-standing ones, or you can organise your own. There will be small prizes for the winning team, but we guarantee that, winners or losers, everyone will leave having gained a new perspective of our beautiful Museum.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 60

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 278 172.

1. Oxfordshire Wall Paintings Tour: Combe Longa, South Newington and Chalgrove

Tue 30 April | £48

Depart from Redbridge P&R 10am | Taylorian 10.15am | Water Eaton 10.30am. Return 4.30pm

This tour will take in three of the finest examples of medieval wall paintings in Oxfordshire. We shall go first to St Lawrence's Church in Combe Longa with its colourful murals. Then we shall travel to South Newington for lunch in the picturesque Duck on the Pond pub (included), and a tour of the striking paintings in the Church of St Peter ad Vincula. Our final stop will be St Mary's Church, Chalgrove, where we shall have an expert presentation on the internationally famous wall paintings, followed by tea and biscuits.

Organiser: Sue Hine. Tickets available: 48

Access: Some walking and uneven ground including steps in all locations.

2. The American Museum, near Bath

Tue 18 June | £40

Depart from Redbridge 9.30am | Taylorian 9.45am | Water Eaton 10am. Return 4pm

The American Museum at Claverton Manor illustrates the history of America, from its early settlers to the 20th century. It has a remarkable collection of folk and decorative arts demonstrating the diverse and complex nature of American

traditions. We shall be able to visit the period rooms and exhibitions, including the world-famous collection of quilts, and dine in the self-service Orangery Café (not included). Outside, we shall be taken on a tour of the gardens, which include a recreation of George Washington's famous Mount Vernon garden.

Organiser: Sue Hine. Tickets available: 48

Access: All buildings are fully accessible via ramps; the main building has a lift. Transport is available in the gardens.

3. Chavenage House, near Tetbury

Wed 3 July | £48

Depart from Tylorian 9.15am | Water Eaton 9.30am. Return 3.30pm

The Lowsley-Williams family have lived here since 1891 with only one family here before them. A previous owner, Colonel Nathaniel Stephens MP, sided with Cromwell during the Civil War and the tapestried Oliver Cromwell room is just one of the highlights of its Civil War history. We shall be welcomed over coffee or tea (included) by the present owners who will give us private tours of their lovely Elizabethan house and chapel. We shall have a Ploughman's lunch (included) in the ballroom, then tour the gardens at leisure. Recent filming includes *Wolf Hall* and *Poldark*.

Organiser: Rosemary Wharton. Tickets available: 96

Access: Most of the tour is on the ground floor and negotiable with walking sticks. Seating available for those remaining downstairs.

4. Buscot Park, Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Mon 15 July | £49

Depart from Redbridge 9.10am | Tylorian 9.20am. Return 3.30pm

This late 18th century house set in enchanting landscaped grounds will be opened privately for our group. The estate was given to the National Trust in the 1940s with a leaseback of the house and grounds to the Faringdon family. The idea of keeping the contents together and of improving and maintaining the collection took hold in the 50s and 60s. We will have coffee and a tour of the house and after a light lunch (included) there will be time to stroll in the pleasure gardens.

Organiser: Ros Nicholas. Number of tickets available: 48

Access: There is a five minute uphill walk to the house from the car park, and there are 14 steps up to the house. Four mobility scooters are available. There is a flight of stairs, with a handrail, to the three showrooms upstairs.

5. Hughenden, High Wycombe and West Wycombe Park

Tue 23 July | £28 NT member | £48 non-NT member | £36 Art Fund member (please bring relevant cards)

Depart from Redbridge 9.30am | Tylorian 9.45am | Sandhills bus stop 10am. Return 4.20pm

Come and visit Benjamin Disraeli's country house, full of fascinating memorabilia of this charismatic and fascinating statesman. On arrival at Hughenden we will have coffee and biscuits, and then we are free to tour the house. Lunch is not included, but there is a café serving hot meals in the Stables. After lunch we will leave for the short coach journey to West Wycombe Park. There we will have a guided tour around the house that reflects the wealth and personality of its founder, Sir Francis Dashwood.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 55

Access: Both Hughenden and West Wycombe are fully accessible.

6. Stratfield Saye, Hampshire and the Duke of Wellington

Tue 30 July | £52

Depart from Playhouse 8.50am | Redbridge 9.10am. Return 3.30pm

Stratfield Saye House has been the elegant home of the Dukes of Wellington since 1817, when the Hampshire house and estate were presented by a grateful nation to the victor of Waterloo. The house remains the personal home of the Wellington family and our guided tour will reveal a remarkable collection of paintings, furniture and personal mementos. In the stables is the Iron Duke's magnificently imposing cast bronze funeral carriage and the surrounding gardens include the grave of his trusty warhorse, Copenhagen. Morning coffee and quiche/salad lunch are included.

Organiser: Jane Young. Tickets available: 51

Access: This visit includes moderate walking to/from/around the house and visiting the gardens.

FREE MEMBERS' EVENTS AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

JEFF KOONS AT THE ASHMOLEAN

7 February - 9 June 2019

I couldn't think of a better place to have a dialogue about art today and what it can be. - Jeff Koons

Curated by Koons himself together with guest curator Norman Rosenthal, the show will feature seventeen important works, fourteen of which have never been exhibited in the UK before. They span the artist's entire career and his most well-known series including Equilibrium, Statuary, Banality, Antiquity and his recent Gazing Ball sculptures and paintings.

Dr Xa Sturgis, Director of the Ashmolean, says: 'In showing Jeff Koons at the Ashmolean, the world's oldest public museum where the collections range from prehistory to the present, this exhibition will provoke a conversation between his work and the history of art and ideas with which his work engages. I am sure it will also provoke conversations among those who see it.'

MEMBERS-ONLY EVENING

Private evening viewing, with pop-up Members' Room

Tue 4 June, 6 – 8pm

Take in this special exhibition after hours with a guest, and make use of the Ashmolean pop-up Members' Room at the Rooftop Restaurant. Enjoy a drink beforehand, or stay a little longer and enjoy a meal. Usual Members' discount will apply at the restaurant. Please call 01865 553 823 to reserve a table, stating that you are a Member.

No booking required. Just present your membership card as you arrive at the Museum, and last entry to the exhibition is at 7.40pm. Each Member is entitled to bring one guest free of charge into the exhibition at the evening, and tickets are available to purchase at the exhibition shop for additional guests.

Please access the Museum via the St Giles entrance.

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**.