



## LECTURES AND VISITS SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2015

**All lectures take place in the Lecture Room, Kenwood House and start at 11.00 am**

Sunday 20 September, **PIRANESI: FANTASY AND EXCESS**

Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski

Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-78), is best remembered today for his highly evocative etched *vedute* of the classical ruins of Rome and for his dramatic prints of 'Imaginary Prisons'. However, Piranesi was also a leading exponent of the neoclassical style in interior furnishing and, to a lesser extent, in architecture. As part of his exploration of the antique his workshop or 'museum' as he described it, produced heavily restored antiquities for the Grand Tourist market. A fine example of just such an 'antiquity' is a white, Istrian Stone cinerary vase in the collections at Kenwood. Taking the vase as a point of departure, this lecture will look at Piranesi's unique approach to classicism which inspired architects such as the Adam brothers and Sir John Soane. Dr Kierkuc-Bielinski recently took up the post of Curator of Art Collections at Kenwood.

Sunday 18 October, **'WONDERFULLY EXECUTED, BOLDLY CONCEIVED': HISTORY, NATURE AND EDWIN LANDSEER**

Dr Justine Hopkins

Celebrated in his lifetime for his portraits, human and animal, Landseer remains to this day a surprisingly under-rated talent in the history of British art. Taking its starting point from Kenwood's spectacular epic painting, *Hawking in the Olden Time*, this lecture explores and celebrates the painterly and imaginative scope of an artist who deserves to stand among the greats of both landscape and historical art. Dr Hopkins lectures widely on British art, including at the V&A and at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Her biography of the sculptor and painter Michael Ayrton was published in 1984.

Sunday 15 November, **THE HUNDRED DAYS AND WATERLOO: 'THE NEAREST THING YOU EVER SAW IN YOUR LIFE'**

Dr Roger Knight

The title of the lecture is the Duke of Wellington's own take on the battle of Waterloo which took place two hundred years ago and changed the course of European history. Our lecturer, Dr Knight, a renowned naval historian, was formerly deputy director of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. He is the author of an acclaimed biography of Horatio Nelson, the other hero of the wars with France, and of a brilliant book called 'Britain Against Napoleon: The Organization of Victory.'

Sunday 6 December, **DÜRER'S WALK (followed by Christmas drinks)**

Dr Joachim Strupp

Albrecht Dürer was the most groundbreaking, inquisitive artist of the Northern Renaissance. His professional curiosity, spirit of exploration and entrepreneurial mind prompted him to embark on a journey from his home town Nürnberg across the Alps into artistically advanced Italy twice, an arduous and hazardous undertaking, which ultimately led him to Venice. Dürer recorded his impressions in letters and diaries, and in watercolours, prints and paintings, giving us a unique insight into his psyche. Also from Nürnberg, Dr Strupp followed in his compatriot's footsteps, and will present this extraordinary experience in his lecture. Dr Strupp specialises in Italian and German Renaissance and Baroque art. He has been a university lecturer in art history and now lectures independently.



Monday 29 June at 2.00 pm **THE HEINZ ARCHIVE at THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

Since its foundation in 1856, the National Portrait Gallery has assembled archive material on every aspect of British portraiture and is the foremost centre for its research. This archival material is wholly democratic; no matter who the sitter was, famous or not, if there is a portrait, the Heinz Archive would like to have a record. The visual records, contained in about 2,500 boxes, are mostly photographic reproductions of portraits, or prints of portraits dating from before the invention of photography. Thus it is possible to discover the existence of a particular portrait, its last known location and track its provenance through different owners. In addition, the Gallery has collected all manner of reference material, including satirical prints by James Gillray, eighteenth century silhouettes, artists' sketches and correspondence.

Our visit will be hosted by Robin Francis, Head of the Archive and Library, with the archivist, Bryony Millan. We shall see examples of the enormous range of material contained within the archive, including some of the notebooks by Sir George Scharf (1820-95), the first director, who with pocket book and pencil, sketched and annotated the portraits he saw in private houses, and those portraits he hoped the Trustees would purchase for the Gallery. The visit will end with an opportunity to delve into the sitter boxes, so you can search for an ancestor, or look up anyone who interests you.

**Places are limited, so do book early.**

We meet at The Heinz Archive and Library (National Portrait Gallery), 39-40 Orange Street, WC2H 7HS at 1.45pm. The cost is £10.50 and the visit lasts about one and a half hours. Nearest tube stations Leicester Square and Charing Cross.

Thursday 17 September at 8.45 am **HAM HOUSE, RICHMOND**

Ham House, situated on the banks of the River Thames at Richmond is Europe's most complete surviving example of a 17<sup>th</sup> century country mansion. Built in 1610, the house was gifted to William Murray, whipping boy to Charles I, in 1626. He embellished the house until the Civil War put a stop to such luxuries. The Murrays were ardent Royalists and, during the 1650s, the house became a centre for members of the 'Sealed Knot', the secret society dedicated to the restoration of the monarchy. In 1655, the house was inherited by Murray's formidable daughter Elizabeth, whose second husband was the Duke of Lauderdale, a member of Charles II's inner cabinet of ministers. Together they extended the house and decorated it in the most lavish style of the period. Ham House was at the heart of Restoration Court life. When John Evelyn visited in 1678, he noted, "the house is furnished like a great Prince's". It remained in the family of Elizabeth Murray's descendants and little was changed (including the ghosts) in over 300 years. Thus it survives as an example of opulent late 17<sup>th</sup> century taste, rich in textiles and furniture, a fine collection of paintings and objets d'art. The gardens which surround the house have been restored to their elegant 17<sup>th</sup> century splendour and include a productive kitchen garden, the maze-like 'Wilderness', complete with summerhouses and an Orangery.

We shall arrive at Ham House by coach at about 10.am and have coffee. Our guided tour of the house lasts about one and half hours. Lunch is available in the café, or if it is fine, you may take your own picnic. There is an optional guided tour of the gardens at 2pm. We will return to Kenwood by coach at 3pm. The cost is £21.50 for National Trust members and £30 for non-Trust members. Coffee/tea and lunch are extra and are available from the café. If you wish to come on the visit, you will need to pay £15 when making your booking and the remainder (£6.50 or £15) on the day.

**Please complete a booking form for the two visits above.**

Thursday 12 November at 10.30 am **GARDEN TOUR** with Head Gardener, Paul Jackson

**'Blue skies, Autumn colours and the unfolding restoration of the Kenwood Estate'** Meet 10.30 am at the North Front of the House.

### **FOR YOUR DIARY**

Tuesday 13 October, evening **CONCERT OF WORLD JAZZ**  
performed by the international **Nicolas Meier Group** in the Orangery at Kenwood

**Details and a booking form for the concert will be sent later.**