

**JAGS Sixth Form Centre (via Green Dale)
7.30 for 8pm, second Thursday of the month**



10 October 2024: THE ROAD TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - PILGRIMAGE AND SPECTACLE (Ian Cockburn)

In the 11th and 12th centuries, the idea of a physical journey towards a spiritual goal was extremely popular. The 'camino' or pilgrimage road across northern Spain became one of the most widely-used, dotted with Romanesque churches and monasteries designed to incorporate the veneration of saints into sumptuous architecture, religious sculptures and elaborate reliquaries, attracting many pilgrims and their money.



14 November 2024: NO MORE VENUSES - THE NUDE IN MODERN ART (Lydia Bauman)

Since the early Renaissance the female body has been paraded as a representation of Venus, elevating it from a naked body into an idealised nude, given to the changing ideals of beauty over the ages. It is only in the 19th century that the naked body sheds its classical veneer to adopt new guises, mostly in tandem with the development of avant garde art movements and reflecting the changing attitudes of society and the artist's own aims.



12 December 2024: PANTOMIME - A VERY BRITISH FEAST (Giles Ramsay)

Over 2500 years in the making, the great British pantomime is a very potent brew indeed. Mix the earliest Greek and Roman drama with commedia dell'arte and medieval morality plays, stir in a sprig of 17th century masque, a dash of 18th century harlequinade and a hefty shot of Victorian music hall and hey presto, you have the modern Christmas pantomime (oh no you don't!).



9 January 2025: THE MAYA HERITAGE - ANCIENT AND MODERN MAYA CULTURE (Chloe Sayer)

The ancient Maya civilization reached its peak between AD 300-900. Across much of present-day Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, many great cities have been discovered, some still buried in the jungle. Their achievements in art and architecture were matched by a knowledge of maths, astrology, calendrics and hieroglyphics. Murals, ceramic figures and intricately carved stone panels provide an insight into their religious ritual, music, warfare, textiles and courtly life. Today some six million Maya carry on many of the traditions of their ancestors.



13 February 2025: **THE THREE GREAT GAME-CHANGERS OF 19th CENTURY OPERA** (Jamie Hayes)

The world of opera is full of remarkable contributors, game-changers who left the stage in a completely different place from the one they found. In the 19th century three such men revolutionised the art form in very different ways - Verdi, Wagner and Puccini. From the romantic heart-breakers of *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*, via the mystery and magic of *The Ring Cycle*, to the melodramatic tear-jerkers of *Tosca* and *La Bohème*, audiences enjoy their remarkable journeys and the innovative theatricality which highlights so much of their work.



13 March 2025: **RODIN, DANTE AND THE GATES OF HELL** (Jacqueline Cockburn)

Rodin began working on the commission for The Gates of Hell in 1882 and it was not finished by the time he died in 1917. Taking inspiration from Dante's extraordinary work, Rodin created wonderful drawings and filled his magnificent doors with figures which would inspire his entire career. We will look at The Kiss and other depictions of characters condemned to Hell for their crimes and we will look again at the poem, one of the most important works for all time.



10 April 2025: TOP 20 MOST POPULAR ARTWORKS IN BRITAIN TODAY
(Raymond Burton)

The lecture will reveal the top 20 most popular paintings and artworks in Britain resulting from polls taken up to 2020. There will be a brief description of the works that didn't make it, followed by a countdown of those that did. The audience will be asked to name their favourites and towards the end of the lecture, they will see how they compare with the poll results. The factors that make a painting popular will be discussed, as it does not necessarily rely on quality nor status of the artist.



8 May 2025: HOGARTH AT THE HUSTINGS (Rupert Dickens)

The long British tradition of political satire is coming to the fore again as a General Election approaches. At the root is William Hogarth's Election Entertainment prints from the 1750s. His ruthless exposure of electoral corruption and hypocrisy sets the stage for later generations of satirists including James Gillray, Private Eye and today's digital artist Cold War Steve. Rupert will explain Hogarth's many jokes and references and reveal some themes with surprisingly topical relevance, from voter identification to the politics of immigration.



12 June 2025: **TAMARA DE LEMPICKA, ART DECO DIVA** (Alexandra Epps)

Tamara de Lempicka's story is one of self-invention. From her beginnings as an aristocratic fugitive from the Russian Revolution to later taking Paris by storm as a successful artist living on her own terms, she has become an icon of the Roaring Twenties. Her unique style reflects the shifting morals of the age, representative of the wealthy and decadent European elite and boldly celebrating female sexuality. Few artists sum up an epoch quite as completely.



10 July 2025: **WILDE ABOUT OSCAR - FAMOUS FOR BEING FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS** (Simon Whitehouse)

This lecture examines the life and times of Oscar Wilde from his Irish roots to his student days at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity. We will travel with him to the US and examine his starring role in the artistic and theatrical worlds of late 19th century London. We will visit his Chelsea home and some of his favourite West End haunts. We will learn how he became famous for being infamous ...