

LECTURES AND VISITS JANUARY TO APRIL 2021

Lectures will be transmitted by Zoom at 11am on Sunday mornings.

Details for joining the lectures will be given in the Friends of Kenwood online news bulletin that precedes it.

The lecture on 18 April begins at 11.30 am, following the AGM.

LECTURES

Sunday 17 January, **Sacrificed for Liberty: Bruyas, Courbet, and the Art of Patronage**

Kathy McLauchlan



La Rencontre or "Bonjour M. Courbet", by Gustave Courbet

The relationship between Gustave Courbet and his patron Alfred Bruyas presents a dramatic instance of the tensions between patrons and artists during the nineteenth century, their expectations and ambitions. This lecture follows the various stages of their story, which starts in the 1840s, with a young man's hopes for a small art collection in Montpellier, and concludes in Paris in 1855, with a huge international exhibition and one painter's ambition to establish himself as France's leading modern master. We will see just how much Courbet, the painter, owed to his patron, but also how – ultimately – Courbet's assertion of independence broke with traditional ideas of patronage.

Kathy McLauchlan completed a PhD thesis on French painters in Rome during the nineteenth century. A freelance lecturer specialising in 19th century art history, she has published catalogues and articles for the British Council and the Barbican Art Gallery. She is currently a course director at the Victoria & Albert Museum, where she organises courses and study days on the history of art and design.

Sunday, 21 February, **Playing to the Gallery: Displaying Theatrical Portraiture in Georgian and Early Victorian London**

Tessa Kilgarriff



Master Betty as Hamlet, by James Northcote

Celebrity culture boomed in 18th century London, but it wasn't only on the stages of the city's theatres that actors and actresses forged their reputations. The display of theatrical portraits at exhibiting venues including the Royal Academy, Boydell's Shakespeare Gallery and at popular print shops allowed artists to capitalise on the intense public interest in leading theatrical stars. To what extent did painters, printmakers and actors collaborate to create these striking works, and how did the exhibition-going public perceive them? This talk will examine some of the most notable stars of the period, such as Sarah Siddons and David Garrick, as well as bringing lesser known players and portraitists to the fore.

Tessa Kilgarriff was formerly Curator of Collections and Interiors at Kenwood, Ranger's House and Chiswick House (2019-2020). A specialist in 18th and 19th century British art, she received her PhD from the University of Bristol. Prior to joining English Heritage, she was Assistant Curator at Watts Gallery – Artists' Village in Compton, Surrey.

Sunday 21 March, **Stonehenge: A Curator's View**
Heather Sebire



Stonehenge, Winter Solstice Sunrise

Stonehenge is arguably the most famous prehistoric site in the world. The first monument was an early henge built about 5,000 years ago, and the unique stone circle was erected about 2,500 BC. Together with Avebury nearby, Stonehenge is the heart of a World Heritage site. This lecture will give a description of the Stonehenge site and a summary of recent research projects and then it considers how artists, writers and poets have been inspired by and responded to this unique site over many centuries.

Heather Sebire is Senior Stonehenge Historic Property Curator at English Heritage. She is currently Honorary Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London of which she is a Fellow, and a former Council member of the Prehistoric Society and the Royal Archaeological Institute. She is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the *Paysages des mégalithes* project to inscribe the many sites at Carnac in Brittany as a World Heritage Site.

Sunday 18 April, **Treasures in Little: 18th and 19th Century Portrait Miniatures at Kenwood**

Louise Cooling



©English Heritage, Kenwood

Portrait Jeanne Baptiste Johnston, née Maillard, by John Smart

Kenwood is home to a famed collection of British paintings, among them some of the most spectacular portraits of the 18th century. Less well known are Kenwood's more diminutive treasures; a collection of more than 100 portrait miniatures spanning three centuries. From the introduction to Britain of ivory as a support, to the innovations of the Modest School and the masterpieces of Richard Cosway, Jeremiah Meyer and John Smart, the 18th century saw the miniature in Britain reach its zenith. Yet within a few decades, the advent of commercially available photography propelled the miniature into terminal decline. This lecture explores both the heyday and the decline of the portrait miniature in Britain through the lens of Kenwood's significant collection, examining the role of the miniature in the development of a national style, the response of miniaturists to the changing landscape of art in Britain and the place of miniaturists within the pantheon of British art.

Louise Cooling joined English Heritage as Assistant Curator of Kenwood in October 2018. She was previously Curator of Paintings at Royal Collection Trust and Assistant Curator of Paintings at the V&A. She specialises in British art of the 18th and 19th centuries, with a particular interest in portrait miniatures and the practice of women as artists and collectors. In addition to her scholarly publications, Louise is the author of *A Royal Christmas* (Royal Collection Trust, 2018).

SPRING ESTATE WALK



Thursday 6 May, 10.30 am, **Spring at Kenwood**

A walk with Kenwood's Head Gardener. Meet at North Front of Kenwood House.

This walk is free for Friends of Kenwood; non-members £5.00.

Booking in advance (essential) by emailing:

info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk

or call Helen Payne 07775 894146