

Queer Expressions

LGBT History Month at the V&A

Saturday 24 February 2018

12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00

All events are free, no booking required



An intimate dinner with Constance Spry, hostess extraordinaire

Prints & Drawing Seminar Room* (Henry Cole Wing)

12:00-12.45

More a tale than a talk: books, prints and photographs from the Word & Image Department illustrate an imaginary dinner party that might have been planned by Constance Spry. Deborah Sutherland introduces us to Spry's wide circle of friends and connections including: Gluck, Cecil Beaton, Marie Laurencin, Eileen Gray, John Minton, Janet Flanner, and other cultural icons who influenced 20th century lifestyles and interiors.

**This seminar room has limited capacity, visitors will be admitted on a first-come basis*

'Don't tell anybody that we are wearing clothes made by Pierre Balmain'

Seminar Room3 (Henry Cole Wing)

13:00 -13:45

The V&A collections include a brown velvet suit made for Gertrude Stein by couturier Pierre Balmain. Join Dawn Hoskin as she reflects on the suit's biography, from production to the present day, considering: Stein's visual 'lesbian identity'; Balmain's identity as a designer; the relationship between client, friend and couturier; and numerous 'queer connections'.

'Britain's Most Romantic Museum?': Lesbian Spectatorship and Sculpture

Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

14:00 – 14:45

Exploring the *Daily Telegraph's* claim that "museums and art galleries are temples of lust, positively throbbing with passion," join Dr. Amy Mechowski on a journey through the Sculpture galleries as we find that passion for women and between women ignited in the history of the female nude.

A Queer Eye on Sci-Fi

Seminar Room3 (Henry Cole Wing)

15:00 – 15:45

Science fiction dominates the work of designer Eddie Squires (1940-1995) whose eye-popping fabrics took 1960s London by storm. This talk by Zorian Clayton will look at the incredible bequest of 9 scrapbooks he left to the V&A, containing a snapshot of gay London over 30 years alongside kitsch graphics and packaging, futuristic furniture and fashion, visionary architecture and moonscapes!

LGBTQ Gallery Tour

Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

16:00 – 17:00

Conclude your day by joining our monthly gallery tour, which explores gender and sexual identities through a selection of LGBTQ-related objects in the V&A's rich collections.

Speakers

Deborah Sutherland

Deborah is Curator of Operations in the National Art Library. When she was managing a book move, she came across "Hostess", and her passion for 20th century book, ephemera and graphic design led her from there into the fascinating world of Constance Spry. That passion has also resulted in a display currently showing in Gallery 102 at the V&A: "Printing a modern world: commercial graphics in the 1930s".

Dawn Hoskin

Dawn is Assistant Curator of Metalwork, Ceramics & Glass. Since joining the V&A in 2008, she has worked across a number of Collections and was previously Assistant Curator on the major redevelopment of the Europe 1600-1815 Galleries. She is Co-Chair of the V&A's LGBTQ Working Group. Her current research explores the depiction of women cyclists in 19th-century posters.

Amy Mechowski

Amy is Head of the Learning Academy at the V&A. Formerly Co-Chair of the V&A's LGBTQ Working Party (2009-2013), she holds a PhD in the History of Art from UCL on the subject of the construction of lesbian identity in 19th century photography. She continues to publish and deliver public lectures on the subject of women and sexuality in 19th-century visual and material culture.

Zorian Clayton

Zorian is an Assistant Curator in the Prints department and Co-Chair of the V&A's LGBTQ Working Group. Keen on ferreting out objects of queer interest in the museum archives, he has previously given talks on The Queer Allure of Art Deco, Denton Welch, Derek Jarman, and the gay 1890s.

Organised by the V&A's LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer) Working Group

Keep in Touch

Find out more about LGBTQ histories in the V&A and download our free guide *Out on Display, a selection of LGBTQ-related objects on display in the V&A*: vam.ac.uk/lgbtq

OUTing the Past

LGBT History Month 2017



Learning Centre, Seminar Room 5

Friday 10th February 2017

To celebrate LGBT History Month and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales, this event features four speakers with presentations addressing themes of self-identity, visibility and theatricality. Organised by the V&A's LGBTQ Working Group (vam.ac.uk/lgbtq). All talks are free entry, on a first come first served basis .

18.00 – 18.40

Blurring the Lines – Trans representation and gender expression in rock music

Kate Hutchinson (Wipe Out Transphobia)

Rock music has often given a voice to minority groups, including the trans and gender variant community. Through an examination of trans pioneers like Jayne County and Laura Jane Grace, we will also explore lyrics from Lou Reed and The Kinks, and the blurring of gender stereotypes in image and dress with figures such as David Bowie and the New York Dolls. This presentation will give a brief run through the history of trans representation in rock, and address how it has helped in changing attitudes and raising awareness.

18:40-17:20

Punting with Pride

Peter Scott-Presland (CHE – Campaign for Homosexual Equality)

This is the untold story of the Oxford Gay Action Group (1972-74), which straddled CHE and the GLF (Gay Liberation Front), as well as the two distinct communities of the city known locally as 'Town and Gown'. Oxford was a pioneer in producing gay theatre and was home to the first gay switchboard in the country. Colourful characters and lots of good stories told by someone who was there!

Break 19:20-19:40

19:40 – 20:20

Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney: Our love is a thing apart

Alison Child (Behind the Lines)

Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney were household names in the 1920's. They filled the London Palladium for the farewell performance of their variety act in 1932. They were lovers from 1915 to 1931 and counted Radclyffe Hall, Jo Carstairs and Talullah Bankhead amongst their close friends. Alison will explore the reasons these remarkable women have been excluded from cultural memory.

20:20 – 21:00

Exploring the links between lesbian and trans history through Bryher (Annie Winifred Ellerman)

Jana Funke (University of Exeter)

Born into enormous wealth, Bryher was an important patron of literature, psychoanalysis and cinema in the early twentieth century and used her semi-autobiographical fiction, published in the late 1910s and early 1920s, to explore her own gender and sexual identity. This talk will examine how Bryher drew on ideas about gender and sexuality derived from early twentieth-century sexology to articulate her own sense of non-binary gender identity and same-sex desire, and will shed light on a fascinating figure in terms of both lesbian and trans history, opening up discussion about the influence of sexual science and medicine on understandings of lesbian and trans lives.

NB: Programme is subject to change without warning



Pen and ink cartoon of Gwen Farrar and Norah Blaney, W.K. Haselden for Punch magazine 6 January 1932. BTMA Collection V&A S.5027-2009

LGBT History Month 2016

Saturday 27 February 2016

Learning Centre, Seminar Room 3

All events are free, no booking required



LGBT History in Vietnam

13:00-13:45

In recent years, it would look like Vietnam has been leading the charge for LGBT rights in South East Asia. Is this truly the case? Dan Vo examines how the traditionally socially conservative and patricentric country might be moving towards more progressive views on sexuality, with case studies of same-sex desire and transgender identities from the 14th century through to today.

“The great wings of silence”: situating LGBTQ voices in historic houses

14:00 – 14:45

Using the 1975 V&A exhibition ‘The Destruction of the Country House, 1875-1975’ as a starting point, Sean Curran will take a look at the importance of preserving LGBTQ narratives in former domestic spaces now open to the public. Sean will make a case for activism in heritage sites to ensure queer voices are heard in the spaces they called home.

Philippe Jullian – A Queer Life

15:00 – 15:45

Join Zorian Clayton for a look through the spidery sketchbooks of Philippe Jullian, given to the V&A in 1990. Illustrator, writer, camp wit and occasional drag queen, Jullian led an extraordinary life between France and Britain, looking back at the Belle Époque and Mauve Decade to explore queer subjects for biographies on Robert de Montesquiou, Jean Lorrain, Violet Trefusis and Oscar Wilde. Illustrator to Colette, Proust, and the Bloomsbury set, his own novels included a collaboration with Angus Wilson entitled ‘For Whom the Cloche Tolls: A Scrapbook of the Twenties’.

LGBTQ Gallery Tour

Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

16:00 – 17:00

Conclude your day by joining our monthly gallery tour, which explores gender and sexual identities through a selection of LGBTQ-related objects in the V&A’s rich collections.

Organised by the V&A’s LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer) Working Group

Speakers

Dan Vo

Dan has been a V&A Ambassador since 2013, and helped to introduce the permanent LGBTQ tours at the museum. He is a media producer, and assists with PR for LGBT History Month. He is also director of Salon Outré, a collective of LGBT BAME dance, choral and spoken word artists, with performances held at the V&A Museum and William Morris Gallery.

Sean Curran

Sean is currently completing their practice-based PhD in queer activism and curation at UCL Institute of Education. They are co-curator for the exhibition 'Twilight People: stories of faith and gender beyond the binary' at the Islington Museum, and exhibition consultant for the upcoming 'Speak Out!' LGBTQ oral history exhibition at the London Metropolitan Archives.

Zorian Clayton

Zorian is an Assistant Curator in the Prints department, currently on secondment in Furniture, Textiles and Fashion. Zorian is Co-Chair of the V&A's LGBTQ Working Group. Keen on ferreting out objects of queer interest in the museum archives, he has previously given talks on Denton Welch, Derek Jarman, and the gay 1890s.

Keep in Touch

Find out more about LGBTQ histories in the V&A: vam.ac.uk/lgbtq

From here you can download our guide *Out on Display*, a selection of LGBTQ-related objects on display in the V&A

Become a fan on Facebook: facebook.com/victoriaandalbertmuseum

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National Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans History



London Hub: V&A Museum

6th February 2016

To celebrate the Festival of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans History, Schools OUT UK, LGBT History Month along with the V&A LGBTQ network and Wise Thoughts join hands to present a day full of presentations and events exploring a range of exciting LGBT history topics. All events are free entry, on a first come first served basis (no booking needed).

11.00 - 11.30 Seminar Room 3: **LGBTQ History** by Stuart Milk

11.00 – 11.30 Seminar Room 1: **Pride of Place – ‘Gay Buildings’ and England’s LGBTQ Heritage**
by Rosie Sherrington

11.40 – 12.10 Seminar Room 3: ***Beyond The Well of Loneliness: Radclyffe Hall in the Archive***
by Dr Jana Funke

11.40 – 12.10 Seminar Room 1: **LGBTQ History: Is it all one shade?** by Travis Alabanza-Behard

12.20 – 12.50 Seminar Room 3: **Forty Years of Making and Recording History** by
Ross Burgess

12.20 – 12.50 Seminar Room 1: **No Secret Anymore: Lesbian Life Stories** by Jane Traies

13.00 – 13.30 Seminar Room 3: Film screening – ***Gateway to Heaven* Age Concern England:**
stories of older LGBTQ people after a play by Claire Summerskill

13.00 – 13.30 Seminar Room 1: **Forgotten Histories: Trans Activists of Colour** by Sabah
Choudrey

13.40 – 14.20 Seminar Room 3: **Making Drama from LGBTQ History: *A Very Victorian Drama*** (film screening and Q&A) and ***Devil in Human Shape*** by Tom Marsham (40 mins)

13.40 – 14.10 Seminar Room 1: **Writing Lesbian Lives into Irish Famine and California Gold Rush** by Hilary McCollum

14.25 – 14.55 Seminar Room 3: **Michael Dillon: Trans Pioneer** by Cheryl Morgan

14.20 – 14.50 Seminar Room 1: **My Genderation: Archiving our history** by Fox

15.00 – 15.30 Seminar Room 3: **Queen and Country: same-sex desire in the British Armed Forces during the Second World War** by Dr Emma Vickers

15.00 – 15.30 Seminar Room 1: **Out and Proud in Trade Unions** by Vicky Boroughs/Dalia Fleming from UNISON

15.40 – 16.10 Seminar Room 3: **The History of the Pink Triangle and its Importance for Today's LGBTQ Movement** by Rainer Schulze

15.40 – 16.10 Seminar Room 1: **The Impact of Religion on Sexuality and Gender in the Black British Community** by Adebisi Ademola Alimi

16.20 – 17.30 Seminar Room 3: Film screening – ***Private Life*** (UK, 15 mins) by Abbe Robinson followed by Q&A and panel discussion

Programme is subject to change without warning.

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LGBT History Month 2015

Saturday 28 February, 12.00–17.30

Organised by the V&A's LGBTQ Working Group

All events are free

Talks start at the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance



Man? Or Macaroni? Sexual Fluidity in the 18th Century

12.00-12:45

Join Assistant Curator of Sculpture, Danielle Thom, for an exploration of masculinity, nationalism and homoeroticism in 18th century Britain. Looking at sculptures, prints and other objects throughout the British Galleries, this talk will explore the impact of fashion, art and interiors on the construction of male sexuality between 1700 and 1800.

Voice through a Cloud

13:15-14:00

Assistant Curator of Prints, Zorian Clayton, leads a whistle-stop tour of the ceramics, glass, and silver galleries exploring curios, trinkets, and oddities in the V&A collection through the novels and aesthetic sensibilities of the writer and artist, Denton Welch (1915-1948). Including excerpts from his journals and first two novels, consider this a camp introduction to one of Britain's most authentic literary personalities.

Under Your Nose film screening + Q&A

Seminar Room 1 (max. 40 people)

14:30-16:45

25 years ago a group of activists came together with one aim – to open a centre for black lesbians and gay men in London. Against the backdrop of 1980's politics, music and the burgeoning gay scene, *Under Your Nose* (gomins, 2014) celebrates those trailblazers and fearless human rights workers whose political and creative legacy is still apparent today. Followed by a Q&A with director Veronica Mckenzie.

Ken. To be destroyed + film shorts

British Galleries Cinema, Level 4

12:00-17:30

It was a family secret that Sara Davidmann's uncle Ken (K) was trans*. The deletion of trans* life from the idealised family album is explored by the artist in a short projection (11 min, 2014) of her exhibition 'Ken. To be destroyed'. Accompanied by a selection of queer film shorts from the vaults.

NB: Photography will be taking place

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Read the V&A's LGBTQ Group blog:

vam.ac.uk/blog/section/out-in-the-museum

Queer Histories at the V&A

LGBT History Month 2014



Saturday 22 February, 12.00–17.00

All talks start at the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

She Me Her: Get Your Nails Did

12.00 – 13.45

Drop in

Creative director Charlie Craggs hosts a pop up nail salon celebrating trans women and educating around trans issues. Charlie has worked with major brands and museums.

John Minton's Guardsman

14.00 – 14.45

Join assistant curator Matthew Storey for an investigation of John Minton's 'Guardsman' print. Is it a simple image of a soldier preparing for the 1953 coronation, or a reference to the artist's own sexual desires?

Tight Pants: Hercules and Hip Hop (Remastered / Expanded)

15.00 - 15.45

Artist Ryan Riddington draws on the V&A's collections to consider emasculation, representation and transformation. This expanded and remastered talk will contain bonus selections, new commentary and more.

Swoosh Around the V&A

16.00 - 17.00

Join artist and performer Bird la Bird for a flounce around the V&A. From the façade of the building to Tipu's Tiger to theatrical costumes, we'll be looking at the Museum from a fresh queer perspective.

Please note: some content is for mature audiences and may not be suitable for young children

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Queer Words & Worlds

LGBTQ History Month 2013



Saturday 23 February, 12.00–17.30 Free

All talks start at the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

Tight Pants: Homos, Hercules & Hip Hop, 12.00

Join artist Ryan Riddington as he draws on the V&A collections and examples of his own work to consider notions of emasculation, representation and transformation.

(Please note: some content may not be suitable for young children)

Creative Writing Workshop, 13.00

Join performer and poet Cat Brogan for a creative writing workshop based on prints, drawings and photographs with a queer reference point. Cat Brogan is the BBC Edinburgh Fringe Slam winner 2011.

The 'Lesbian' Nude, 14.00

Join Assistant Curator Amy Mechowski as she explores the place of the female nude in 'lesbian sculpture' and considers how the V&A's galleries earned it the title of 'London's most romantic museum.'

Experiences of a Life Model in the 1960s, 15.00

Join Ronald Wright in a talk about his unconventional and enlightened life, Ronald recently published a memoir recounting the secret world of London's homosexual scene in the 1950s and 60s.

The Two Roberts, 16.00

Join Assistant Curator Matthew Storey to explore the lifelong partnership of the artists Robert Colquhoun and Robert MacBryde, a rare example of an open gay relationship in 1940s and 50s Britain.

The Pink Singers, 17.00

Enjoy a special performance by Europe's longest-running LGBT choir who celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. Their repertoire ranges from Sondheim to Dylan, Mozart to Massive Attack.

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Queer Histories at the V&A

LGBTQ History Month 2012



Saturday 18 February , 13.00–16.00

All talks start at the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

Sexuality and the City, 13.00

Join Jon Redmond Carroll and actor Barney Hart Dyke as they take a look at sexuality through the centuries, in this tongue-in-cheek comedic drama staged beneath Sir Pindar's House. *For mature audiences, some content may not be suitable for young children*

Jon Redmond Carroll is an actor, playwright and screenwriter and a founding member of film production company Bare Bones Productions.

Poetry Tour, 14.00

Join Catherine Brogan on a tour of both the Medieval & Renaissance and Theatre & Performance galleries. Explore the folklore of St. Catherine and Hypatia, the homoerotic legend of Ganymede, and the history of drag within Edwardian music halls.

Catherine Brogan is the BBC Edinburgh Fringe Slam winner 2011. She has performed poetry on The Today Programme, at the Cheltenham & Canterbury Literary Festivals and on the Radio 4 UK Slam.

Mrs Jon Jo's Tour: Feeling a Little Queer, 15.00

Walk through the galleries with Mrs Jon Jo and explore 'overt' and 'covert' treasures. Embracing the idea of the queer gaze, he will invite an intimate group of visitors to look anew and remind you that there is nothing so serious or beautiful that can't be camped up.

Jonathan Jones is a comedian and performer who has performed on stages from Edinburgh to Brighton and worked for Greenroom, Contact Theatre, Hazard Festival Manchester, and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, among others.

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Queer Histories at the V&A

LGBT History Month 2011



Saturday 26 February 2011

13.00, 14.00, 15.00/15.30 & 16.00

Meet at the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance

Join the V&A in celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans History Month 2011. Experience performances and listen to curators discuss alternative queer readings of museum objects, discover the histories of the people who made them and explore how sexual identity can inform the way we interpret the past.

13.00

Riding Astride 'the freedom machine': women cyclists in the late nineteenth century

Dawn Hoskin, Word and Image Department

14.00

'The Most Romantic Museum in London': the V&A and lesbian desire

Amy Mechowski, Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass Department

15.00 / 15.30

A Monologue about 'facing yourself' in the Norfolk Music Room

Olle Roberg, Actor/Performer

16.00

William Thomas Beckford

Oliver Winchester, Research Department

Event is free, no booking required

Check www.vam.ac.uk for more details

Queer Histories at the V&A

LGBT History Month 2009



Saturday 28 February 2009

13.00, 14.00, 15.00 & 16.00

Meet at the Grand Entrance Meeting Point

Join the V&A in celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans History Month 2012. Experience performances and listen to curators discuss alternative queer readings of museum objects, discover the histories of the people who made them and explore how sexual identity can inform the way we interpret the past.

13.00

Eves and Angels: Sculpture and Lesbian Spectatorship

Amy Mechowski, Assistant Curator, Sculpture Department, V&A

14.00

Jack Cole's Queer Choreography

Keith Lodwick, Assistant Curator, Theatre and Performance Department, V&A

15.00

Glad to be Gay: Coming Out to 1970s Britain

Jason Narlock, King's College London

16.00

From Doctor to Decadent: Fashioning Dirk Bogarde

Professor Christopher Breward, Acting Head of Research, V&A

Event is free, no booking required

Check www.vam.ac.uk for more details

Queer Histories at the V&A

LGBT History Month 2008



Saturday 9 February 2008

13.00, 14.00, 15.00

Meet at the Grand Entrance Meeting Point

For LGBT History Month 2008 the V&A will host the first in a series of queer heritage gallery talks and tours on Saturday 9 February. These tours of the Museum's galleries will encourage the reading of difference in museum objects, a theme that will be developed and explored in a new programme of talks, courses and events at the V&A.

13.00

The Female Nude and Lesbian Spectatorship

Amy Mechowski – Assistant Curator, Far Eastern Department, V&A

14.00

Closet Cases – the history of dress and sexual identity

Professor Christopher Breward – Head of Research Department, V&A

15.00

Visual AIDs – graphic responses to HIV

Oliver Winchester – Assistant Curator, Contemporary Programmes, V&A

Event is free, no booking required

Check www.vam.ac.uk for more details