

Lunchtime Lectures

Summer 2018



13.00-13.45

Hochhauser Auditorium

Free, no booking required

Wednesday 11th April

Bookbinder's Lacquer: The impact of Chinese lacquer in the Middle East and beyond

Middle Easterners admired Chinese lacquer so much they wanted to produce their own, but they lacked the raw materials and the technology to do so. The solution was to create the same effect using other means. One result was "bookbinder's lacquer". Join Senior Curator **Tim Stanley** to find out more.

Wednesday 18th April

Ocean Liners

Join exhibition curator **Ghislaine Wood** to hear about the romantic and remarkable age of ocean travel and discover how ocean liners helped shape the modern world.

Wednesday 25th April

Anthony Crickmay: Photographing People and Performance

In conjunction with the display Anthony Crickmay: Photographing People and Performance the presentation will look at the career of the leading photographer focusing on his work in theatre and dance. This covers five decades beginning with the 1960s revealing the changing nature of the theatre and dance scenes in Britain.

Wednesday 2nd May

Idealism and status through imagery, poetry & literature

Artefacts in the European galleries help us to gain an insight into the political ideals of the day as well as perceptions on status. This talk includes a reflection on some artefacts as well as the use of music, poetry and literature to offer contrasting perspectives

Wednesday 9th May

Fashioned from Nature

Curator **Edwina Ehrman** will introduce the V&A's Fashioned from Nature exhibition, which explores the complex relationship between fashion and nature from 1600 to the present day. She will talk about the research that underpinned the exhibition and about ways in

which today's fashion designers and consumers are addressing the challenge of creating a more responsible industry.

Wednesday 16th May

Steve Strange: From Blitz Club to Top of the Pops

Steve Strange was one of the most flamboyant personalities in the London club scene that launched the New Romantic movement of the early 1980s. With his band Visage, *Fade to Grey* remains one of the most enduring songs of the era. In 2016, the V&A acquired Strange's archive from his family. In this illustrated talk, **Keith Lodwick** will talk about the contents of the archive and some of the objects that made Strange such an influential figure.

Wednesday 23rd May

The Material World of the Conversation Piece

Kate Retford will draw on research from her new book (*The Conversation Piece*, 2017) to explore the intimate ties between the eighteenth-century British conversation piece, and the material world of the Georgian era. One of the key characteristics of these innovative small group portraits, which became fashionable from the late 1720s onwards, was the amount of space and detail they devoted to settings and objects - to the saloons and drawing rooms in which the figures were posed - to the fireplaces, tea tables, ceramics and paintings which surrounded them. This talk will explore the meanings of these painted rooms, and ask: what can they tell us about actual homes of the period?

Wednesday 6th June

V&A Artist in Residence: Responding to museum data

Rachel Ara is the V&A Research Institute's current artist in residence. In her talk, she will discuss her practice and the work she has been doing during her residency, researching and responding to the museum's data. She will also give an insight into her initial ideas and prototypes for a digital installation and Virtual Reality work to be displayed at the V&A during London Design Festival in September.

Wednesday 13th June

Strong and Courageous Women Create an Exhibition

Hackney women explore their experiences of motherhood with Hackney Museum, in collaboration with Bump Buddies (Shoreditch Trust), and supported by the V&A. Through an exploration of the Hackney Museum's collection, the women have been thinking about how their experiences link with the generations of women who came before them. Learn more about their thoughts about Museums, collections, curating and how their stories have been used as the basis of an exhibition.

Wednesday 20th June

The Arts, Refugees & Migration: New Work, New Approaches

As the scale of displacement around the world grows to levels not seen since the 1940s, how are artists responding to the challenges of representation, advocacy and community engagement? Surveying work by a selection of artists from both refugee and non-refugee backgrounds, **Tom Green** from **Counterpoints Arts** will invite the audience to consider a range of creative responses. Counterpoints Arts is a leading national organisation in the field of arts, migration and social change. They manage **Refugee Week** (18-24 June), now in its 20th year.

Wednesday 27th June

The Future Starts Here

Curator **Rory Hyde** will introduce the exhibition *The Future Starts Here*, which explores the power of design in shaping the world of tomorrow. He will discuss the key technologies appearing on the horizon, how they could impact our lives.

Wednesday 4th July

The Life and Loves of Frederick The Great

When he was still a prince, Frederick II was publically caned by his father for “effeminate, lascivious and feminine occupations highly unseemly in a man”. Frederick had a passion for writing poetry, playing the flute, collecting snuff-boxes and... men. He was also determined to be one of the most enlightened monarch and under his leadership transformed Prussia into a European powerhouse. Join **Dan Vo**, coordinator of the award-winning volunteer-led LGBTQ Tours at the V&A, as he takes a closer look at the biography of the beloved king who kept an all-male court in a palace brimming glittering treasures, some of which form the Gilbert Collection.

Wednesday 11th July

Imagined Lives

Based on the Imagined Lives Project organized by the National Trust and the National Portrait Gallery, this lecture is inspired by the works within the V&A Europe Gallery 1600-1815 and their connection to African Heritage. **Kim Sheldon** will focus on these objects as a starting point, for descriptive writing, characterisation and generating their stories to be heard. We will retell, revise, reshape and recreate the often lost or hidden life stories of the African Heritage images within the gallery.

Listen to Lunchtime Lectures online here:

<https://soundcloud.com/vamuseum/sets/v-a-lunchtime-lecture-series>

Programme is subject to change