

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2026-27

All lectures are held in the Théâtre Le Ranelagh and are followed by an informal get-together with refreshments.

Théâtre Le Ranelagh
5 rue des Vignes
75016 Paris

Thursday 8th October 2026

14.00: Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8th October 2026

14:30: Images of the British Empire



British imperial power was projected through a variety of artistic mediums, from fine portraiture and grand imperial buildings to more popular forms of imagery. British artists also produced countless images of people from all over the globe who had become subjects of British rule. Through considering a variety of paintings, buildings and objects from across the Empire, this lecture provides a fascinating insight into the ways in which the British viewed themselves and their imperial subjects.

By Dr John Stevens

Thursday 19th November 2027

14:00: Donatello Renaissance Genius

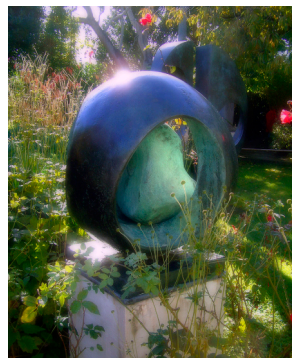


Donatello is one of the artistic giants of the Renaissance and has been called the greatest sculptor of all time. Outstandingly original and inventive, working in a range of media, he pioneered the new style that emerged in Florence around 1400, transforming the visual language (and the visual landscape) of his native city through a range of sculptures both public and private, including for the Medici. This lecture surveys his career, highlighting Donatello's versatility and innovation in works made for patrons in Florence, Siena and Padua.

By Paula Nuttall

Thursday 10th December 2026

14:00: Barbara Hepworth



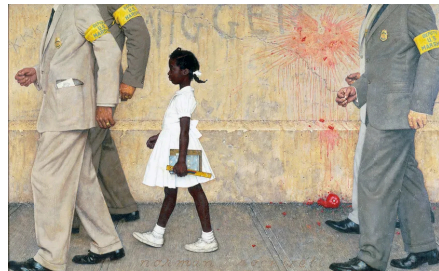
From Yorkshire to the United Nations – The Life and Work of Britain's Most Renowned Female Sculptor

This lecture celebrates the remarkable life and career of British sculptor Barbara Hepworth, tracing her journey from rural Yorkshire to international acclaim. It begins with her early friendship with fellow sculptor Henry Moore and follows her travels across Europe in the 1930s, when she met Picasso and learned to carve marble in Florence.

By Ian Giles

Thursday 14th January 2027

14:00: American Dreams and Nightmares



Norman Percevel Rockwell was an American painter and illustrator. His works have a broad popular appeal in the United States for their reflection of the country's culture. Rockwell is most famous for the cover illustrations of everyday life he created for The Saturday Evening Post magazine over nearly five decades.

George Clair Tooker, Jr. was an American figurative painter. His works are associated with magic realism, social realism, photorealism, and surrealism.

By Christian Monjou

Thursday 4th February 2027

14:00: Princesse Louise: an aesthetic sculptor

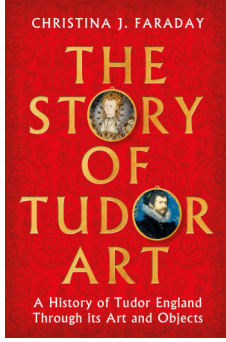


When researching my biographies of Lizzie Siddal and Kate Perugini, I kept coming across a mysterious princess, attending studio parties, helping fellow artists in times of need, and being linked with several scandals. I was amazed to discover Princesse Louise was a daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and a well-respected sculptor. Her life and legacy has been locked away in the Royal Archives ever since her death in 1939, but her work was stunning, and her life fascinating. Researching her biography was like being a detective, so I titled my book The Mystery of Princesse Louise.

By Lucinda Hawksley

Thursday 4th March 2027

14:00: Tudor art: a new story



Despite the fame of Holbein's portraits, art might not be the first thing that comes to mind when we think of the Tudors. Yet from Henry VII onwards, the Tudor dynasty made unprecedented use of images and objects to promote their rule. We'll uncover the rich variety of painting, architecture, tapestry and other decorative objects that surrounded English viewers in the 16th century, putting these artworks into their religious, political, social and artistic contexts. We'll consider issues such as the extent of Renaissance influences at the court of Henry VIII, the revival of medieval and neo-chivalric themes under Elizabeth I, and the lesser-known artistic atmosphere during the reigns of Henry VII, Edward VI and Mary I.

By Christina Faraday

Thursday 1st April 2027

14:00: Seaside Modern: Art and Life on the Beach



During the first half of the 20th century something amazing happened to the beaches of Britain: they became glamorous. Men and women swapped fusty Victorian garments for daring swimsuits as 19th century prudery gave way to 20th century exhibitionism. Seaside Modern makes an important contribution to our understanding of the period's cultural and social history. The lecture is based on the exhibition of the same name I curated at Hastings Contemporary in 2021, and I touch on the sometimes fraught and occasionally hilarious business of curating exhibitions like this.

By James Russell

Thursday 13th May 2027

14:00: Lord Fitzwilliam and his bequest to Cambridge



The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge was founded on the death of Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam in 1816, five years after the Dulwich Picture Gallery and eight years before the National Gallery in London. His bequest included paintings, drawings, prints, medieval manuscripts and books and, in addition, a sum of money to build "a good substantial museum repository for the increase of learning". Who was Lord Fitzwilliam? How did he acquire his extensive collection? What prompted him to leave it to the University of Cambridge and why was Napoleon partly responsible for the founding of one of the great regional museums?

By Sarah Burles

VISITS

- Chateau de Dourdan;
- American Church in Paris;
- Conseil Constitutionnel;
- Tribunal du Commerce;
- Cimetière de Montparnasse;
- Musée de l'Immigration;
- Eglise Saint-Serge;
- Hôtel de Nocé Boucheron

For details please see our website.

WHAT IS THE ARTS SOCIETY PARIS?

PADFAS The Arts Society Paris is a Franco-British society which was founded in 1994 with the aim of enhancing the appreciation and enjoyment of the arts, and helping the preservation of our artistic heritage.

The Paris society, as well as many other European and Australian societies, are members of THE ARTS SOCIETY U.K.

Annual membership of The Arts Society Paris is 110€ per person.

Visitors are most welcome to attend lectures at 20€

MORE INFORMATION?

Contact:

Ghislaine Elliott

gamelliott@gmail.com

Phil Dunbar

paris@theartsociety.org

Web site www.padfas.fr

Lectures are held at the:

Théâtre Le Ranelagh
5 Rue des Vignes
75016 Paris

Reduced mobility entrance at
2 bis rue des Marronniers.

Metro: La Muette
RER C: Boulainvilliers
Bus: 52, 22

Scan to see our lecture and visits programme,
and membership form



PADFAS

Programme 2026-2027

