

REVISED DATES

Pen and Pencil: Writing and Painting in England, 1750-1850

The Paul Mellon Lectures by Duncan Robnson, Master, Magdalene College,
Cambridge

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we wish to inform you that the Paul Mellon Centre Lectures by Duncan Robnson have been rescheduled to January and February 2009.

Wednesday 21 January – Wednesday 18 February 2009

Sainsbury Wing Theatre, The National Gallery, London



William Hogarth

The Painter and his Pug, 1745 ©Tate, London 2008

In these lectures, Duncan Robnson attempts to show the importance of literature in the broadest sense, in the development of the visual arts in Britain. For Hogarth 'my picture was my stage,' and his scenes from life as he saw it paved the way for that narrative tradition in English painting so beloved of the Victorians. From his lectern, Reynolds not only discoursed on art but raised the bar for his profession by insisting that the student at the Royal Academy Schools must 'warm his imagination with the best productions of ancient and modern poetry.' For Gainsborough, Reynolds's opposite in every sense, intimate correspondence took the place of formal lecture; from the letters he wrote to his friends we gain an appreciation of the man as well as insights into his painting. And the same holds true of Constable. By contrast, Turner's appreciation of poetry encouraged him to pen his own 'Fallacies of Hope.' The final lecture is devoted to visionaries and dreamers, to artists for whom, like Blake, the literary and the visual are inseparable in the unity of their art.

Revised Lecture Programme

All lectures on Wednesday at 6.30 pm

21st January 'Subject as writers do.' William Hogarth

28th January 'He can never be a great artist who is grossly illiterate.' Joshua Reynolds

4th February 'From the window I am writing I see all those sweet fields...' John Constable

11th February 'Painting and Poetry ... reflect and heighten each other's beauties.' JMW Turner

18th February 'I dare not pretend to be anything other than the Secretary; the Authors are in Eternity.'
William Blake

The cost of the lectures is £5/£3 concessions or £20/£15 for booking the whole series.

Tickets may be booked either: Online: www.nationalgallery.org.uk/what; By post: cheques made payable to The National Gallery and sent to Advance Tickets sales, the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN; In person: from the Advance Tickets and Audio Guide desks, Level O, Getty Entrance; On the day: any remaining tickets will be on sale half an hour before the start of each event. Payment by cash or cheque only. For information only, please telephone 020 7747 2888.