



11 September 2026

THE ROYAL PAVILION BRIGHTON

Patrick Connor brings us the fascinating, varied and tortuous history of this iconic and exotic seaside palace. From Prince Regent's oriental folly to wartime hospital and museum, the Royal Pavilion is once more restored to its sumptuous splendour.



16 October 2026

THE BODY AS A PLACE: THE SCULPTURE OF ANTHONY GORMLEY

Having known him from The Slade, Anna Moszynska reviews the more than four decade development of this major British sculptor from a unique perspective. We are taken from the Angel of the North to Gormley's other iconic work in Britain and around the world.



13 November 2026

SIR ANTHONY VAN DYCK: PRINCE OF PAINTERS

Van Dyck's fluid and colourful Baroque style, inspired by a love of Venetian painters such as Titian, eradicated the stiff painting of Elizabethan and Jacobean England. Adam Busiakiewicz's talk will not only focus on Van Dyck's life, travels and key works, but also chart his influence on British Art in the following centuries.



11 December 2026

FROM THE SAXONS TO MARY BERRY: A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH COOKBOOK

English recipe books have reflected the eating habits of Kings to home cooks. Peter Ross tells the story of the cookbook and along the way will tempt you, or indeed disgust you, with a few choice recipes.



22 January 2027 – Discovery Day

RADICALS AND RIVALS - HOW HENRY MOORE, BARBARA HEPWORTH AND BEN NICOLSON CHANGED ART IN BRITAIN

Friends and artistic rivals, their lives were intertwined. Jo Walton will look at these dynamic artists and how their use of new materials and techniques injected a modern dimension into British art.



12 February 2027

ANTONI GAUDI: MASTER BUILDER OF BARCELONA

Gaudí's most famous building, the Barcelona Church of the Sagrada Família, is Spain's most-visited monument and one of seven of the architect's works listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Rarely has one person come to be identified with a city as Gaudí has. Viv Lawes' lecture examines Gaudí's work and enduring legacy in Barcelona.



12 March 2027

THE BORGIAS, THE MOST INFAMOUS FAMILY IN HISTORY?

Murder, poison, corruption and incest: all perfect ingredients for sensational popular culture. But in an age known for its brutality and church corruption were the Borgias really so bad? Sarah Dunant reveals the real family that dominated the Papacy and Italian politics during the last decade of the 15th century.



9 April 2027

MONET AND OTHER IMPRESSIONISTS AS GARDENERS AND PAINTERS OF GARDENS

Martin Heard's lecture includes Monet gardens in Argenteuil and Giverny on the River Seine. Here Renoir, Manet, and Sisley also painted numerous scenes. We look at Caillebotte's extensive garden at Gennevilliers, where he developed specialised horticultural interests.



14 May 2027

THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE ART - WHERE LEONARDO MEETS PICASSO

Collectors have been prepared to pay astonishing amounts to own a masterpiece. Ian Swankie's lecture will try to answer the question "Are they really worth hundreds of millions of pounds?"



11 June 2027

BRONZE AGE FRESCOES FROM SANTORINI: THE ART OF ATLANTIS?

Santorini was overwhelmed in a cataclysmic volcanic eruption. Steven Kershaw examines the preserved frescoes and if the legend of Atlantis was inspired by the greatest natural disaster of the ancient world.



9 July 2027

TURNER VS CONSTABLE: THE GREAT BRITISH PAINT OFF

This is the story of the epic rivalry between these two contemporaneous giants of British art, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable. As well as giving an overview of Turner's and Constable's work, Nicola Moorby provides an enjoyable overview of the British art world during the early nineteenth century.



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