

## Launceston ADFAS 2021 COVID Plan

Welcome to 2021- the year when we hope that things will change for the better, but when we know it will bring us change and uncertainty.

Our plans are based on 4 points:

1. Your membership fee should cover those things which we know we can deliver:

10 digital lectures, one per month from February.

2. Your fees should support those who make ADFAS lectures special:

Overseas lecturers, many of whom have lost a major source of their income.

Digital lectures provide them with some income.

3. A commitment to provide face-to-face options when we think these are feasible:

These will be at a small extra charge and organised within a short time frame.

4. Embracing local lecturers

We have talented lecturers available in Tasmania and Australia who also need our support.

### ADFAS Launceston 2021 Digital Lecture Schedule

#### 10 Lectures Delivered to your Home

Available to view with friends, and maybe together with fellow members.

We hope you will join ADFAS Launceston in 2021 for an exciting program and year that will no doubt surprise us all!

However, while ADFAS lectures continue to be screened digitally in 2021, or face-to-face if and when it becomes safe again to do this, Launceston ADFAS will continue to deliver superbly illustrated presentations from world-class lecturers on a diverse range of topics within the arts and related disciplines.

To join or renew your membership with Launceston ADFAS, please complete the on-line 2021 Membership form @

<https://www.adfas.org.au/societies/launceston/>

For further information email:

[Launceston@adfas.org.au](mailto:Launceston@adfas.org.au)



# ADFAS

AUSTRALIAN  
DECORATIVE  
& FINE ARTS  
SOCIETIES

Launceston 2021  
Lecture Program

## February Dr John Stevens

**Imperial Calcutta: Arts and Architecture** Calcutta was the second city of the British Empire and a hub of cultural and artistic production throughout the 19th-20th centuries. This lecture provides an overview of the arts (poetry, theatre, literature, song) and architecture of this extraordinary city, which was India's capital until 1911. At the epicentre of the 'Bengal renaissance', Calcutta played a central role in shaping the arts & culture of modern India, as a huge variety of artists sought to interpret India's classical heritage in new ways, and to combine this heritage with Western cultural forms. This lecture examines how Calcutta's arts and architecture were affected by British rule, and explores the fascinating ways in which Indian artists viewed the British in India.

## March Ian Cockburn

**Walls that Speak: The Alhambra Palace** The beauty of the Alhambra of Granada, built by the Nasrid dynasty in the 13th and 14th Centuries, speaks for itself - or does it? Many visitors, while stunned by the exquisite architecture, are unaware that the walls, covered in Kufic script, are talking directly to them. This lecture begins with an overview of the structure of the monument and the way in which it was used, as well as the broad decorative programme of the interior of the two remaining palaces within the complex. It then takes a closer look at the inscriptions, some of them an endless repetition of the Nasrid dynastic motto, but many also consisting of lyrical Arabic poetry and even lines where the wall itself is boasting of its own beauty and significance.

## April Jane Gardiner

**The Golden Age of Venetian Glass** The stylistic development of glass produced in Venice from the late 15th century to the late 17th century, seen through actual objects and through paintings. During this lecture, we will look at the early history of glass-making in Venice, the material itself and the techniques involved in forming and decorating the pieces. We will discuss the early fashion for richly coloured and enamelled glass, the sources of inspiration behind the forms and the decoration, who would have owned the pieces and how they would have been used or displayed. We will also consider the desire for luxury objects in the

Renaissance, the new liking in the 16th century for clear glass or *cristallo* and the fashion for fine glass drinking vessels which followed on from this. Finally, we will examine the spread of this fashion throughout Europe, the resulting trade and the gradual spread of glassmaking skills to other parts of Europe

## May Dr Tom Flynn

**How Russia sold off much of its cultural heritage following the Revolution** Unlike the widely publicised looting of Jewish collections by the Nazis during the Second World War, the wholesale dispersal of Russia's cultural heritage during the inter-war period is rarely discussed. This lecture looks at the process by which the Russian Revolutionary authorities sold off vast quantities of their country's valuable art treasures following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in order to raise valuable hard currency. Sometimes referred to as the conversion of "Treasures into Tractors," the process effectively confiscated and sold off the contents of Russia's churches, libraries, monasteries, museums and aristocratic private collections, thereby dispersing much of the country's cultural treasures to the far corners of the world. This talk lifts the lid on the extraordinary events that unfolded after the Revolution.

## June Ian Gledhill

**The Story of the Crystal Palace** Originally designed for the Great Exhibition of 1851, then transported to Sydenham and rebuilt and enlarged, the Crystal Palace was Joseph Paxton's masterpiece, and was the largest iron and glass building ever constructed. It dominated the south London skyline for over 80 years until its tragic destruction by fire in 1936. This is the history both of the Great Exhibition and the building that housed it, and the on-going artistic

legacy of both.

## July Patricia Laws

**The French Jewel Houses from 1900** This lecture follows the stylistic developments and trends of the major French Jewel houses such as Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Boucheron. It looks in detail at their designs, manufacture and their use of gemstones and how this was affected and influenced by the events of the twentieth century. From the graceful and light Belle Epoque, through the colour and excitement of the Twenties, to the sombre and monochrome of the Depression in the thirties, and all with their individual and evocative styles.

## August Nigel Bates

**Tantrums & Tiaras** - is a look at backstage life at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the pressures faced by performers, be they singer, dancer, conductor or musician. We see how the building copes with the demands of modern productions and examine audience expectations both in and outside the theatre. We also look at some of the highs and lows that have been the fortune of this world-class performing venue over the years. Fully illustrated including audio and video clips

## September Lynne Gibson

**Alchemy and Adventure: A History of Exotic Colours and Poisonous Pigments** - (live streamed due to copyright issues) It is easy to take colour for granted in our man-made world. But before organic chemistry the most desirable pigments were often rare, exotic or poisonous. Merchants supplied cochineal 'grana' from the holds of Spanish galleons, golden nuggets from India and lapis rock carried by camel train from the mountains of Badakhshan. Alchemists prepared deadly King's Yellow, mysterious Vitriol of Venus and Moorish Gold concocted from basilisk powder and human blood. Small wonder artists kept their paint recipes closely guarded in 'Books of Secrets.' This lecture tells the stories of alchemy and adventure behind some of our most beautiful and colourful paintings.

## October John Ericson

**Visual Illusions: Can you believe your own eyes?** In this thought provoking and entertaining presentation John has selected a range of visual illusions illustrating 'illusions in art' as well as 'illusions as art'. Some of the images will amuse, some will confound and others will challenge your self-belief. Even those familiar with illusions may not have appreciated how they affect our appreciation of art or how much they influence our day-to-day lives.

**Art Inspired by Wine** [Digital Half Interest Day] Invite to follow.

## November A surprise TBA!