

Lecture Series
In Person or On Zoom
April 2022



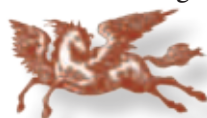
Courage or Collaboration?

Parisiennes' choices during polarising political conflict

with Sylvia Sagona

Travels Through Time
Cultural Studies and Tours

email : enquiries@travelsthroughtime.com
web: www.travelsthroughtime.com



Courage or Collaboration?

The COVID epidemic has focussed our attention on the relationship between the individual and the community. It has highlighted the problem of dealing with those who choose to follow their own interests despite endangering the lives of others. This scenario was played out in more dramatic fashion in Occupied Paris of the 1940s when some risked torture and death to uphold ideals while others enriched themselves at others' cost.

This series will examine the careers of women on both sides of the divide. What is even more interesting is how those who thrived in the cesspool of Vichy and Nazi France are remembered today. No one is really interested in hearing the unsavoury back stories of Edith Piaf, Arletty or Coco Chanel. They are now iconic Parisians. By contrast, there is a small plaque commemorating the Resistance heroine, Rose Valland, on the wall of the Jeu de Paume. What does this mean about collective memory?

Lecture Series Details

This lecture series will consist of 3 x 1 hour lectures. You can choose to join us in person (24 person limit) or on Zoom. Please select your preference noting that the in-person seats will be allocated in order of booking.

Dates

Fridays – April 1, 8, 22

Time

10:30 – 11:30 AM (AEST)

Cost

The cost for the 3 sessions is \$100 (incl GST)

Venue

5 Grattan St, Hawthorn (first 24 bookings)
Zoom lecture – link to be sent

Lecture 1 – April 1 Liberty Leading the People



Eugène Delacroix's surging figure of Liberty on the barricades in 1830 Paris, has become an international emblem of resistance and Revolution. She is portrayed as Marianne, the incarnation of the 1789 Revolution and who still appears on French stamps and coins. However depicting an ideal as a real working class woman with hair under her arm pits was considered scandalous. This lecture will examine in detail the painting of 1830 and its message of bravery and sacrifice for the common good. How did this message resonate in Paris under the Nazi occupation? What does it mean today?

Lecture 2 – April 8 Honouring Spies

Coco Chanel is a legend celebrated for her ground breaking fashion and famous perfumes. While Parisians starved and Jews were shipped off to death camps she lived in luxury at the Ritz in a relationship with a high ranking Nazi, even going on missions to Germany and Spain. On the liberation of Paris she escaped any retribution possibly on orders from Churchill. She knew too much. Who, however, has ever heard of Rose Valland, the frumpy academic who braved death every day for 4 years at the Jeu de Paume secretly recording and memorising all data relating to the thousands of art treasures being looted by Goering? It was thanks to her bravery that 600,000 pieces of art were recovered by the Monuments Men.



Lecture 3 – April 22 Dangerous Professions



The German propaganda machine used the entertainment industry to lull the Parisian population. The glamorous actress Arletty starred in collaborationist cinema and lived the high life with a handsome Nazi but after 18 months seclusion in a chateau as penalty, returned to starring roles. Edith Piaf has also become the epitome of all things French despite profiting from recitals for the Nazis and even singing in Berlin. However the unglamorous cash strapped Marie Louise Giraud was guillotined by the Vichy regime for performing abortions on desperate neighbours in 1943 when denunciations were reaching a frenzied level. Abortion had become a crime against the State and Vichy needed a scapegoat.