

Lecture Series

July 2021



Picture This

with Sylvia Sagona

Travels Through Time
Cultural Studies and Tours

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Picture This

Each of the pictures studied in this series endeavours to capture and advertise the essence of the city that inspired it. The three artists open a window into the society of their time, allowing the viewer to explore physical details such as clothing, jewelry, tableware, food, weaponry, pet keeping and architecture. In turn, these details lead to concepts of religious and civic duty, social and gender hierarchy, the geography and trade routes of the known world and the composition of artistic elites. Once you begin delving into the canvas you cannot look away.

Lecture Series Details

This lecture series will consist of 3 x 1.5 hour illustrated lectures and morning coffee. Please select one stream.

Dates

Stream 1 : Tuesdays – July 6, 13, 20
Stream 2 : Fridays – July 9, 16, 23

Time

10:15 – 12:00 noon
(Lecture starts at 10:30 sharp)

Cost

The cost for the 3 sessions is \$145 (incl GST)

Venue

Alloarmo – 5 Grattan Street, Hawthorn

Lecture 1 – July 6 / 9

Sunshine and Sensuality: Renoir's Luncheon of the Boating Party



Renoir captures the joie de vivre of a lazy summer lunch on the banks of the Seine at the restaurant La Fournaise. We can feel the breeze, smell the fruit, touch the dog's coat and hear the animated chatter of a group of artistic friends. This carefree sensual image of inter-class mingling deliberately erases the recent trauma of the Commune of 1871 and heralds the beginning of the Belle Epoque.

Lecture 2 – July 13 / 16

A Feast for the Eyes: Veronese's Wedding at Cana

Commissioned for the refractory of the monks of San Giorgio Maggiore, this huge canvas presents Jesus' first miracle as taking place during a spectacular and exotic celebration in a Venice that had already entered its decline and relied on imagery and myth making to maintain its standing. Veronese cleverly manipulates religious and secular details to entice the viewer into this extravagant banquet.



Lecture 3 – July 20 / 23

Performing Civic Duty: Rembrandt's Night Watch



The most famous of Dutch Golden Age paintings depicts the exact moment when Frans Banning Cocq orders his militia group to march into the viewers' space. These civic guard groups, once essential for city safety, had by now become ceremonial gentlemen's clubs but still required the same static style group portrait. Rembrandt deviated from the norm with movement, flickering light, drama and emotional force, much to the annoyance of those paying for their portraits.