

Amuse

EXPERIENCES

Choose Your Experience

We offer our experiences on Zoom. Once museums reopen, we'll also run events in person, in a Covid secure way.

1 Menu

Our menu will give you a taste of what's on offer. For more information on an experience, or to discuss our range of other options, please get in touch.

2 Current Experiences

You can choose from experiences in the following categories: Mindful; Drawing & Craft Making; Museums Around the World; Every Picture Tells a Story; Illustrator & Designer; Walking; Artists in Focus; Themed and Art History.

3 Coffee, Cake & Cocktails Experience

For the ultimate Zoom experience, add to your talk and elevate your experience with a **cocktail** or delicious **treat** selection.

4 Children's Experiences

Tours marked with **KIDS** are suitable for children or mixed groups of adults and children. Get in touch to find out about our wide range of children's trails and tours.

5 Pricing

Pricing is available on request. Prices range from £250 and we have a charity rate.

6 Timings

Standard talks last one hour. Workshops and courses last longer.

Contact us to find out more

Experiences



Mindful

■ The Art of Slowing Down

Bombarded with visual material, most of us spend no longer than a few seconds glancing at an image or object. The Art of Slowing Down encourages participants to collaboratively explore one artwork or artefact in detail using Thinking Routines, developed and designed at Project Zero, Harvard.

■ Mindful Drawing

What would it be like to spend one hour with one artwork, taking time to look and draw? We bring together drawing exercises and mindful meditation, to guide you through an experience of close attention and deep engagement with art.



Drawing & Craft Making

■ Life Drawing Experience

Draw the nude figure from artworks in museum collections. Develop your own creative practice on this drawing course exploring the most common subject in European art: the human body. Focusing on the tradition of the nude in art, through close study of masterworks and guided drawing exercises, we'll help you learn the basics of figure drawing in an informal and supportive environment. Artworks from museum collections will be your models for the day, including Renaissance statuettes, Baroque bronzes, paintings by Titian and sculpture by Michelangelo. We can offer the additional option of a live model.

■ Family Activity

Create a 3-D Tiger mask from recycled materials, and learn all about tigers, inspired by Henri Rousseau's famous painting 'Surprised!' (Tiger in a Tropical Storm). Tell stories as we work, or tell a story once your mask is finished. Learn about symmetry, and apply this knowledge to your creation, whilst sharing some fascinating facts about our feline friends. An activity that can be adapted to suit a variety of ages and level of interest.

■ You Can Draw!

Many adults think that they cannot draw and, in this stimulating, and illuminating workshop, you will discover that how you draw is driven by your brain. This exciting workshop uses music and ideas from the old masters to explore new ways of drawing and shows that in a very short amount of time, you can learn to draw in a way you never thought was possible. Different workshops will focus either on landscape, portrait, the figure, still life or abstract.



Museums Around the World

■ Foreigners in London

The Artists that changed the course of British Art

This is a three-part course.

Part I: Hans Holbein – his antecedence and legacy

Lecture one will look at the London work of Hans Holbein; his involvement with Henry VIII and his paintings of the English aristocracy as well as the painting tradition out of which Holbein's style of painting sprang.

Part II: The coming of the Grand Baroque Masters to England

Lecture two will look at artists including Rubens. His most successful pupil - Anthony van Dyck - won over England's most influential courtiers. It will look at the Venetian painter Titian and van Dyck's eventual usurping of Daniel Mytens to become principal painter to Charles I.

Part III: Peter Lely "A mighty proud, man full of state"

Lecture three looks at the work of Peter Lely who came to dominate painting in London both at the time of Charles I and during the Interregnum period of Oliver Cromwell.

■ A history of the Venice Biennale

Nearly 200 years of international contemporary art; a way of thinking through the enormous shifts in artistic practice and public engagement with contemporary art, as well as an oblique history of international relations and capitalism over the last two centuries.

■ Discovering Florence

From the Roman city to the flourishing of the Renaissance. We provide a Discovering Florence tour for those who have never been to Florence before and are seeking an introduction to its history and main monuments. We will explore the city's growth from its Roman foundation, flourishing during the Middle Ages, through to the peak of its Renaissance splendour. Surely you can't miss a tour in the Uffizi Gallery, the main museum in the city. We will admire an exceptional collection of paintings, set within an architectural gem, taking you on a journey from the age of Giotto to the great Renaissance masters.

■ The Sistine Chapel, Rome, from 'Beginning' to 'End'

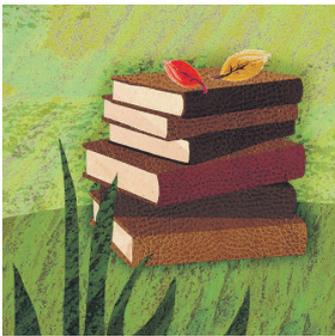
Michelangelo's fresco of the Creation of Adam is undoubtedly one of the world's most famous images, but it does not exist as a painting in its own right. Even Michelangelo's decoration of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, of which it forms a part, is only part of the decoration of the chapel as a whole, which was carried out by several artists for a series of different popes. This talk will follow the development of the chapel, and, as well as Michelangelo, will talk about the other artists who were involved, including Botticelli and Raphael.

■ The Greatest Stories in Art



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Crossing the museum from ancient China to Iran to Europe, we will find enduring legends, myths, epics, battles, great kings, and brave women who have won a place in the hearts and minds of thousands of generations of artists and kids alike.



Every Picture Tells a Story

■ Speaking Pictures, Telling Tales



- How Do Artists Tell Stories?

This interactive session will look at the ways artists of the past have used such features as light, symbolism and body language to create complex stories that speak to us today. Children will be encouraged, and aided, to weave their own stories and bring the myths, legends, creatures and characters depicted to life. Suitable for developing visual literacy and developing confidence in self-expression and expansion of vocabulary.

■ Every Picture Tells a Story



Every picture tells a story...but all is not what it seems. Take a closer look at some famous paintings with us and together we will reveal hidden stories. These talks are themed e.g., the art of love; medicine in art; celebrating the seasons; LGBTQ+ stories; animals in art...and bespoke experiences can be created. Suitable for adults or children.



Illustrator & Designer

■ Visualising History in the Museum

What does the illustrator-as-historian offer to the discipline of history within a museum context?

■ How to unify your perfect experience using design

What to consider when planning for a branded, themed tour complete with personalised trail, stationery, accessories, menus etc.

■ Comics and (hi)story-telling: What is Your Story?

Comics have a unique ability to communicate ideas, theories and narratives in playful, engaging and accessible ways. In this workshop you will learn how to employ the unique and multi-layered language together with the combination of image, text and humour to visually tell your unique stories. These workshops will provide a safe and creative space for self-reflection and expression.

■ Art-inspired stationery

Craft your own greetings card or stationery design using your own artwork inspired by a gallery or exhibition visit. Final printed stationery supplied as part of the experience.



Walking

Using the built environment as our collection, these outdoor walking tours take in our living history. Experience the sounds, sights, tastes and smells of vibrant, cosmopolitan London.

■ The History of Immigration through food in the East End

Starting at Bishopsgate with a salmon bagel, visiting Brick Lane for a curry and finishing with fish & chips.

■ London through five drinks

Starting at Number One Aldwych with champagne, visiting Somerset House, taking in tea at Twinings, enjoying a craft beer in a pub, talking about coffee shops and finishing in a gin distillery. Each stop includes a history of the drink and its influence on London.

■ The Jewish East End: Jews, Juries & Jewels

A heritage and food tour, with a tour of a historic synagogue on request.

■ Black History and the Georgian inheritance at Kenwood House

Learn about the secret life of black aristocrat, Dido Belle, and her influence on the abolition of slavery across the world.



Artists in Focus

■ Artemisia, and other women

The recent success of the National Gallery exhibition dedicated to Italian artist Artemisia Gentileschi has turned her into one of the History of Art's great stars - a woman who fought against the odds to become hugely successful. But she was by no means on her own. Preceded, and inspired by Italy's first 'professional' female artist Lavinia Fontana, her contemporaries included Elisabetta Sirani and Galizia Fede - in Italy - not to mention Judith Leyster and Clara Peeters in the Netherlands and Mary Beale in Britain. This talk will introduce them all, and more, to show that, wonderful as she was, Artemisia was one of several women who deserve more attention than they have been given.

■ Design, Invention, Creation: The Multiple Lives of Leonardo da Vinci

A study day in three one-hour parts:

Exploring the life, work, interests and legacy of a Renaissance icon. Speculations regarding the true life and meanings of Leonardo's works have been rife for centuries, culminating in recent times with books such as *The Da Vinci Code*, which only serve to confirm this continued interest while shedding no light on the man himself or his works. Indeed, what do we really know about this enigmatic Renaissance icon? This study day aims to provide the participant with an insight into the life of the great Renaissance masters and ultimately an understanding of his works through the historical and social context within which this artist worked.

■ Rembrandt and the Rabbi

Discover more about the Dutch artist Rembrandt and the Jews of Amsterdam. Find out more about his connection to his neighbour, the Rabbi, who was instrumental in the readmission of the Jews to England in 1656 and possibly influenced Rembrandt's artistic interpretation in the National Gallery painting, *Belshazzar's Feast*, 1635.

■ Women Artists

Take a look at female artists including Artemesia Gentileschi, Rosalba Carriera, Elisabeth Vigée le Brun and Sonia Delaunay. As a taster: Sonia was taken from a life of poverty in Ukraine to a life of privilege in the capital when her maternal uncle adopted her, providing continental holidays, trips to galleries and concerts. Moving to Paris to become an artist in Paris, she knew Matisse, Picasso and Braque, lived, painted and danced in avant-garde circles until the Russian Revolution ended her rental income from St Petersburg, and she now had to earn money. With extraordinary energy and brilliance, she created a range of clothing, textiles and homeware, becoming the first living woman artist to be given an exhibition at the Louvre.

■ What makes an artist famous? The van Gogh phenomenon

We all know van Gogh. We know the Sunflowers, Starry Night, his self-portraits, the bright prismatic colour applied with energetic strokes of the brush. We know his life was not an easy one. But why is he so famous? What makes him possibly the best-known artist in the world? Why does every gift shop in every gallery have a Vincent gift on display? What makes his paintings instantly recognizable? His failure to find sales or success during his lifetime, his suffering leading to self-mutilation and later to suicide at the age of 37 are all well known. What happened during his short life, and afterwards to transform him into the world's best-loved artist?



Themed

**Decoding Dress; Six the Musical Art Tour;
Art of Seduction; Revelry, Celebration & Indulgence**

■ The Power of the Portrait: Decoding Dress

This session involves detailed discussion of the way in which cloth and clothing is used by artists to create character. Through a richly illustrated zoom lecture, or in-person gallery-based discussion, aspects of dress and deportment would be decoded to provide an additional and deeper layer of understanding of how our ancestors used the language of clothing.

■ Six the Musical Art Tour

Join us for a fantastic Six the Musical Art Tour, exploring paintings from London's National Portrait Gallery. Bursting at the corset, these portraits have riffs to ruffle your ruffs and shimmies to shake up your chemise and a whole lot of HER-story! Explore the Queens through the eyes of artists including the studio of Hans Holbein and see how these Queens dressed to impress. Maybe indulge your senses with a Queen's cocktail (non-alcoholic provided too!) and book tickets to see the Queens live on stage. Find out more on our [Six the Musical Experience](#) page.

■ Art of Seduction

This art tour will take you on a virtual journey of world-wide art museums and private collections to see a selection of the most alluring, exciting and dramatic portraits of women and love. Meet the artists and their sitters, hear their stories, and learn the many arts of seduction. Guaranteed to keep your attention as we navigate these stories of love, desire, deception, tragedy, survival and ambition that will rivet you and allow you an opportunity to travel back in time.

■ Revelry, Celebration and Indulgence at the Met and Louvre, and other stops

This lively art talk explores masterpieces that celebrate the ways humans have revelled, feted and rejoiced across millennia and around the world. From the excesses of ancient Roman bacchanals to the feasting of ancient Babylon, to the country festivals of 16th century Holland to the triumphant ceremonies of 19th century Benin and much more, this tour discovers the myriad ways people have found to commemorate the gifts of life and the ingenious ways artists have captured them. Going around the globe we will see the dance, music, song, indulgence and, above all, sense of abundance that characterises the human spirit and the greatest works of art that have given us these rich insights into the revels of the past. This tour will incorporate music, short video clips, and time for interactive questions and discussion.



Art History

■ A history of the Turner Prize

A history of the Turner Prize - an overview of the prize as the barometer of a shifting relationship between art and its publics; an oblique cultural history of Britain in the 90s and early 2000s.

■ Six works which changed the course of Western Art History

Over the centuries, pivotal works of art have radically impacted the direction of other artists. Looking back over time, it's fascinating to explore which works these might be. The choices will always be provocative and challenging and produces a really stimulating talk which invites debate and discussion.



Discover many ways to keep you, your friends and colleagues amused at **amuseexperiences.com**

Call Caroline on: 07768 362 353

email: caroline@amuseexperiences.com