
British Literature and Art Lecture Series

Saturday 31 May: Bonnie Greer

Bonnie Greer, OBE, is an American-British playwright, novelist and critic. She is also the Chancellor of Kingston University. Her novels include *Hanging by Her Teeth*, *Entropy* and *Obama Music*. She has also published *Langston Hughes: the Value of Contradiction* and the following plays: *Munda Negra*, *Dancing on Blackwater* and *Jitterbug*.

Bonnie Greer will read from her own work as part of a lecture on images and concepts of 'The Other'. Based partly on her first viewing of the 'Medusa' shield on a visit to the Parthenon Museum as Vice Chair of the British Museum, her lecture will examine the idea of 'deep ancestry' in relationship to this Greek context as well as contemporary events such as the recent kidnappings in Nigeria.

Saturday 7 June: Paul Bailey

Paul Bailey is one of the most esteemed British novelists who has taught creative writing at major universities in the UK and US. He is the author of eleven novels, two of which, *Peter Smart's Confessions* (1977) and *Gabriel's Lament* (1986), were nominated for the Booker Prize for Fiction, and four books of non-fiction. His latest novel, *The Prince's Boy*, was published last month by Bloomsbury.

Paul Bailey's lecture will be on the durability of the novella. He will cite great French, Russian, Italian, English (American and Canadian) examples of the genre.

Saturday 14 June: Barbara Taylor

Barbara Taylor is a Canadian-born British-based historian and historical author specialising in Enlightenment History, Gender Studies and the History of Subjectivity. She is Professor of Humanities at Queen Mary University, London, England. She wrote a biography of Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–1797), the early English feminist and republican, and continues to speak on her life. Her memoir *The Last Asylum: A Memoir of Madness in Our Times* was published in February 2014.

In this lecture Barbara Taylor will discuss the writing of her book and the implications of 'mad' autobiography in the context of the genre of self-writing in contemporary British literature.

Saturday 21 June: Paul Perry – Brave New World: British Poetry in the 21st Century

Paul Perry is the author of acclaimed books including *The Drowning of the Saints*, *Goldsmith's Ghost*, *108 Moons*, *The Orchid Keeper* and, most recently, *The Last Falcon* and *Small Ordinance*. A winner of The Hennessy Award for Irish Literature, he is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing for Kingston University, London, and editor of *Beyond the Workshop* (KUP).

In his lecture Paul Perry will talk about the currents in contemporary British poetry and how its traditional borders have been crossed by worldwide influences, with attention to John Burnside, Alice Oswald and Fred D'Aguiar. He will also read from his recently published *Gunpowder Valentine: New and Selected Poems*.

Saturday 28 June: Lindsay Smith

Lindsay Smith is professor of English at the University of Sussex and co-director of the Sussex Centre for Visual fields. A specialist in 19th century non-fictional prose, painting and photography as well as visual perception, photography theory and early 20th century British literature and art, she is the author of many influential articles. Her books include *Victorian Photography, Painting and Poetry*; *The Politics of Focus: Women, Children and Nineteenth-century Photography*; and *Pre-Raphaelitism: Poetry and Painting*. Her next book on the photographs of Lewis Carroll will be published by Reaktion Press. Her current research focuses on British photographs of Athens and the Acropolis.

Lindsay Smith's lecture will explore nineteenth century literary and visual representations of the Parthenon in the context of the controversial fate of those architectural sculptures that adorned it. Easily recognisable from the most cursory sketch of its pentelic marble columns, the Parthenon was, from the 1840s, recorded by the new technological medium of photography. She will examine the ways in which nineteenth century photographs supplemented the existing forms of literary texts, drawings and plaster casts in translating Greek antiquity.