

Turner Today (New Haven/online, 9–10 May 25)

Yale Center for British Art, Lecture Hall / online, May 9–10, 2025

Registration deadline: May 10, 2025

Jemma Field

The Yale Center for British Art is delighted to present "Turner Today" - a symposium organized in conjunction with the museum's exhibition, "J.M.W. Turner: Romance and Reality." This symposium invites scholars and curators from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom to explore the multiple ways that Turner's oeuvre speaks to our present moment, from its relationship to contemporary visual art to its role in framing conversations about climate change and resource extraction. What exciting and new possibilities exist for interpreting and sharing Turner's work in 2025?

Program

10:15–10:30 am

Welcome and opening remarks

Christina Ferando, Head of Research, YCBA

10:30–11:30 am

Panel One: Transatlantic Turner — Reputation and Reception

Moderator: Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art, Yale University

Turner established a significant reputation in North America in his lifetime and still draws considerable attention from American museums. This panel brings together curators from the Frick Collection, J. Paul Getty Museum, and Metropolitan Museum of Art to explore Turner's transatlantic appeal in the past and present. How has Turner been introduced to, and understood by, American audiences? What factors cemented Turner's reputation in the United States and how does his storied reputation affect the way we present and represent his work today?

Discussants:

Julian Brooks, Senior Curator and Head of the Department of Drawings, J. Paul Getty Museum

Alison Hokanson, Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Aimee Ng, John Updike Curator, Frick Collection

11:30–11:45 am

Comfort break

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Panel Two: Turner's Atmospheric Topography

Moderator: Lucinda Lax, Interim Head of the Curatorial Division, YCBA

How are Turner's paintings being reinterpreted amid current ecological crises? This panel situates Turner's interest in particular locations, and the specifics of place, within the broader sociopolitical and environmental context of industrialization and natural resource extraction.

Curators based in the United States and United Kingdom will discuss how exhibitions of Turner's work can address contemporary environmental issues and consider how museums can put contemporary works with environmental themes in dialogue with Turner's paintings.

Discussants:

John Chu, Senior Curator of Pictures and Sculpture / Senior Curator for Midlands, National Trust

Lizzie Jacklin, Keeper of Art, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

Jennifer Tonkovich, Eugene and Clare Thaw Curator of Drawings and Prints, Morgan Library and Museum

12:45–2 pm

Lunch

2–3 pm

Panel Three: Turner, Tradition, and Modern Painting

Moderator: Martin Myrone, Head of Research Support and Pathways, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, and Convenor, British Art Network

This panel considers a paradox: Turner is often portrayed as a harbinger of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Impressionism and abstraction, yet he made constant and overt reference in his art to major artists of the past. How is Turner being embraced and interpreted as an artist who both self-consciously worked within a longstanding tradition and broke radically with traditional painting practices? How are curators engaging with Turner's elusive relationship to modernity and tradition? What is Turner's relevance to contemporary artistic practice?

Discussants:

Amy Concannon, Manton Senior Curator of Historic British Art, Tate

Anni A. Pullagura, Margaret and Terry Stent Associate Curator of American Art, High Museum of Art

Nicholas Bell, President and CEO, Glenbow

3–3:30 pm

Closing Remarks and Reflections on J. M. W. Turner: Romance and Reality

Lucinda Lax, Interim Head of the Curatorial Division, YCBA, and Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art, Yale University

For further information and registration please also see: <https://britishart.yale.edu/exhibitions-programs/turner-today>

The symposium is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Lecture Hall at the Yale Center for British Art and will be livestreamed.

Reference:

CONF: Turner Today (New Haven/online, 9-10 May 25). In: ArtHist.net, May 3, 2025 (accessed Jul 5, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/49153>>.