

Maritime Culture, Britain in the Age of J. M. W. Turner (London, 21–22 Mar 14)

National Maritime Museum, Mar 21–22, 2014

Registration deadline: Mar 20, 2014

Lizelle de Jager

Maritime Culture and Britain in the Age of J. M. W. Turner

To coincide with a major exhibition of the work of J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851), Royal Museums Greenwich is hosting an interdisciplinary conference exploring the cultural impact of the sea in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Turner and the Sea is the first full-scale examination of the artist's lifelong preoccupation with the sea, and features many of his most celebrated works, from his transformative Academy paintings of the late 1790s and early 1800s to the unfinished, experimental seascapes he produced towards the end of his life. The exhibition offers the opportunity to discover the myriad ways in which Turner responded to the maritime art – past and contemporary – while challenging his audiences with new ways of representing the sea.

The conference aims to locate Turner's seascapes within a broader maritime context, and explore the cultural and political significance of the sea during his lifetime.

Programme

Friday 21 March 2014

10.30–11.00: Registration and refreshments

11.00–12.30: Session 1

'Now for the painter': Turner and the Sea at Greenwich: Dr Richard Johns, University of York

'Commercial care and busy toil': Turner's Image of Downriver Thames: Geoff Snell, National Maritime Museum and University of Sussex

Turner, the Mouth of the Thames and Commerce: Leo Costello, Rice University, Texas

12.30–14.00: Lunch

14.00–15.00: Session 2

Craft and Labour in John Ruskin's Romantic Tradition: 'The Harbours of England': Dr Carmen Casaloggi, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Nautical Zombies: Death and the Undead in Romantic Maritime Literature: James Robertson, University of Leeds

15.00–15.30: Coffee and tea

15.30–16.30: Session 3

Sperm, Blood, Blubber, Bone, Oil and Water: the 19th-Century Visual and Literary (Sub)Cultures of Whaling: Professor Jason Edwards, University of York

Turner's Abstraction and the Culture of Steam Power in the Ships of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company: Jonathan Stafford, Kingston University

16.45–17.45: Keynote: Dr Stephen Deuchar, The Art Fund

17.45–20.00: Reception and private view of Turner and the Sea

Saturday 22 March 2014

08.45–09.45: Pre-conference discussion in Turner and the Sea exhibition

09.45–10.00: Coffee and tea

10.00–11.30: Session 4

'Baptism of the Waves': Vernet, Turner and the Near-Death Experience: Dr Melanie Vandenbrouck, Royal Museums Greenwich

Literal or Littoral? Constable's Representations of the Sea: Annie Lyles, independent scholar

Perceptions, Practice, Association: Turner and Stanfield: Dr Pieter van der Merwe, Royal Museums Greenwich

11.30–12.00: Coffee and tea

12.00–13.00: Session 5

Carthage, Venice and Holland: Turner, British Identity and the Sea Powers of the Past: Professor Andrew Lambert, King's College, London

'One haunting conception'? Turner's 'Trafalgar' Paintings: Christine Riding, Royal Museums Greenwich

13.00–14.30: Lunch (from 13.45–14.30 a curatorial talk will take place in the Nelson, Navy, Nation gallery, by Dr James Davey, Royal Museums Greenwich)

14.45–16.30: Session 6

Glorious Firsts! Turner, War and British Marine Painting:

Dr Eleanor Hughes, Yale Center for British Art

Relegation or Patriotic Promotion: a Reconsideration of George IV's Donation of Turner's Battle of Trafalgar to the National Gallery of Naval Art: Cicely Robinson, National Maritime Museum and University of York

The Sailor in the Gallery: Representing the Reception of Maritime Art: Professor Catherine Roach, Virginia Commonwealth University

16.30: Close

Conference fee: £100 (concessionary rate £90). Including Friday evening reception and private view of the Turner and the Sea exhibition

To book tickets contact Lizelle de Jager on 020 8312 6716, research@rmg.co.uk.

<http://www.rmg.co.uk/researchers/conferences-and-seminars/maritime-culture-and-britain>

Reference:

CONF: Maritime Culture, Britain in the Age of J. M. W. Turner (London, 21-22 Mar 14). In: Arthist.net, Feb 22, 2014 (accessed Jul 6, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/7051>>.