

Culture in Times of Conflict (London, 22 Nov 2014)

London, The National Gallery, Nov 22, 2014

Barbara Pezzini, Visual Resources Journal

This study day explores the Gallery in wartime, from providing War Office space in the First World War to Kenneth Clark's transformation of the Gallery into a cultural hub and sanctuary during the Blitz.

The day will not only trace the history of the Gallery over the first half of the 20th century, but it will also allow participants to experience a short reprise of the concerts organised by pianist Myra Hess. From these morale-boosting recitals to the public hunger for 'Picture of the Month', this study day will address the practical contributions made by the Gallery during wartime as well as the way in which culture can provide meaning in times of need.

Programme

10.30am

Welcome

10.40am

Alan Crookham: The National Gallery and World War I

11.05am

Anne Robbins

11.30am

Refreshments

11.50am

Barbara Pezzini: Art and the Great War: Patriotism, Militarism and Silent Dissent

12.15pm

Plenary: Morning speakers Q+A

12.45pm

Lunch (not provided)

2pm

Music: A selection of settings of A.E. Housman's 'A Shropshire Lad', as performed by Keith Falkner and Howard Ferguson in a concert of 5 June 1940. Followed by Myra Hess's arrangement of 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring' for solo piano

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2.45pm

Katy Hamilton: 'That's not Bach... That's Myra Hess' – Wartime Music-Making at the Gallery

3.10pm

Suzanne Bosman: 'A defiant outpost of culture right in the middle of a bombed and shattered metropolis' – The National Gallery and World War II

3.35pm

Plenary: All speakers Q+A

Reference:

CONF: Culture in Times of Conflict (London, 22 Nov 2014). In: ArtHist.net, Nov 11, 2014 (accessed Apr 4, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/8876>>.