



## THE POLYMATH IN QUESTION

### **ARISTOTLE**

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER OR FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Aristotle, student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great, was a true polymath. A prolific writer, he radically transformed most, if not all, areas of knowledge he touched. A towering figure in ancient Greek philosophy, he made contributions to rhetoric, logic, metaphysics, mathematics, physics, biology, zoology and botany, ethics, politics, agriculture, medicine, dance, poetry and theatre. He was the first to classify areas of human knowledge into distinct disciplines such as mathematics, biology, and ethics. He not only studied nearly every subject possible at the time, but made significant contributions to most of them. In physical science, he studied anatomy, astronomy, economics, embryology, geography, geology, meteorology, physics, and zoology. In philosophy, he wrote on aesthetics, ethics, government, logic, metaphysics, politics, psychology, rhetoric, and theology. He also studied education, foreign customs, literature, and poetry. Because his discussions typically begin with a consideration of existing views, his combined works constitute a virtual encyclopaedia of Greek knowledge. Aristotle famously rejected Plato's theory of forms, which states that properties such as beauty are abstract universal entities that exist independent of the objects themselves. Instead, Aristotle argued that forms are intrinsic to the objects, and cannot exist apart from them, and so must be studied in relation to them. The one exception to this is the "unmoved Mover", which is pure Form; it is the goal toward which all things strive.

MEET	10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild
ENDS	3:30 Art Workers' Guild
COST	£85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine