



THE EXHIBITION IN QUESTION
CONSTABLE: THE MAKING OF A MASTER
VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM
WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY

An exhibition at the V&A, *Constable: The Making of Master encourages* insight into previously unrevealed sources for Constable's ideas in creating some of his most loved and well-known paintings; in fact, his inspirations were never far from sight in Dedham Vale. The artist's friend and biographer C.R. Leslie recalled that 'Constable died as he lived, surrounded by art, for the walls of the little attic [bedroom] were covered with engravings'. Those engravings were a small part of a considerable art collection that included 59 oil paintings by 'Old and Modern Masters', over 5000 individual prints, 250 drawings, 37 books of prints and 39 framed prints and drawings by or based on favourite artists such as Rubens, Claude, Ruisdael and Titian. The V&A has assembled an exhibition to demonstrate that the authority of the masters' compositional ideas and the synergy of Constable's breathtakingly naturalistic vision combined ultimately to transform the genre of landscape painting, and in the process shape the enduring popular image of the English countryside. The methods behind the masterpieces are examined and Constable's most famous paintings are reunited with his ground-breaking preparatory oil sketches. Works from the artist's personal collection – a vital resource for his own practice – as well as engravings of his designs made in the last decade of Constable's life to secure his lasting legacy will be on display. Presenting a fresh interpretation of Britain's best-loved landscape painter, this major exhibition reveals how Constable combined a reverence for the old masters with a revolutionary approach to capturing light and atmosphere.

MEET	11 am lecture at the October Gallery, off Queen Square
ENDS	3:30 Victoria & Albert Museum
COST	£82 members, £92 non-members (£70 and £80 V&A members, £77 and £87 Art Fund members), including coffee, light lunch with wine, and exhibition ticket