



Exhibition Study Day

GEORGE IV : ART AND SPECTACLE
Queens Gallery

Monday 3 February

Arguably the British monarch most dependent on spectacle for his impact, George IV formed an unrivalled collection of art, much of which remains in the Royal Collection. As Prince of Wales, and from 1820, as a king totally seduced by magnificence, he purchased paintings, metalwork, textiles, furniture, watercolours, books and ceramics in vast numbers, many of these works by the finest artists of the day. Bringing together Dutch and Flemish masterpieces, including Rembrandt's 'Shipbuilder and his Wife'; magnificent portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence and Sir Joshua Reynolds, a superlative equestrian portrait of the Prince by Stubbs; delicate French porcelain, intricate goldsmiths' work including Rundell's tour de force, a realisation of Homer's mighty 'Shield of Achilles'; elegant books and drawings, and even a stunning red, black and yellow feathered Hawaiian clock, this exhibition will present George IV's life through the art that enriched his world and through which he found his curious sense of identity. We set the exhibition in the context of previous royal collections both from Britain and abroad, and ask whether such royal collecting can be justified on grounds of diplomacy and nationalist propaganda.

All Culture in Question lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lectures begin at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. We then visit the Queens Gallery Exhibition. The event ends by 4.00 pm £97 members, £107 non-members.