

LECTURE

14 July 2022

Presenter: Clare Ford-Wille

Renaissance Watercolours: Undiscovered Treasures from Dürer to Van Dyck



For the first time, the early development of the technique of watercolour during the Renaissance was to have been explored in an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum during the summer of 2020. It was postponed and was due to open in November of that year; then once again it did not open because of further Covid restriction, but was cancelled. Exquisite watercolours are to be found in manuscripts, or albums or on a large scale, as in the Raphael cartoons. They show innovative and fascinating observations of the human figure, the exploration of the natural world and landscape as in the work of Dürer or van Dyck. The exhibition would have been a showcase for the versatility of the technique, in outstanding examples almost never seen by the public. Instead, the lecture will explore the technique and reveal the beautiful images, more easily seen on a screen, which are usually kept hidden in the print rooms of the Victoria and Albert and British Museums, as well as those in Berlin, Vienna and Paris.



Clare Ford-Wille is an associate lecturer for Birkbeck College, University of London and has lectured for many years for a variety of institutions on a regular basis including the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Gallery, Morley College, the City Literary Institute and The Arts Society. In normal times she regularly takes tours to Europe and the USA.

