



National Gallery of Art

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Press Contact:

Sara Beth Walsh

(202) 842-6598

s-walsh@nga.gov

Chief Press Officer

Deborah Ziska

ds-ziska@nga.gov

(202) 842-6353

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**T. J. CLARK TO PRESENT *PICASSO AND TRUTH*
FOR THE FIFTY-EIGHTH A. W. MELLON LECTURES
IN THE FINE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY
OF ART, WASHINGTON**



T.J. Clark, George C. and Helen N. Pardee Chair and professor of the history of art at the University of California, Berkeley, presents the Fifty-Eighth A. W. Mellon Lecture Series, *Picasso and Truth*.

[\(click here to order press image\)](#)

T. J. Clark, renowned art historian and George C. and Helen N. Pardee Chair and professor of the history of art at University of California, Berkeley, will present the **Fifty-Eighth A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts** series, entitled *Picasso and Truth*, this spring at the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

The series will include the following lectures:

March 22 *Object*

March 29 *Room*

April 5 *Window*

April 19 *Monster*

April 26 *Monument*

May 3 *Mural*

All lectures take place Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in the East Building Auditorium. The programs are free and open to the public, and seating is first-come, first-served. T. J. Clark's books *The Sight of Death: An Experiment in Art Writing* and *The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and His Followers* are available for purchase in the Gallery's Book Shop on the Concourse.

Tracing Picasso's path to the Reina Sofía's *Guernica* (1937), the lectures will center on a group of Picasso paintings from the 1920s, including Tate Modern's *Three Dancers* (1925), the Guggenheim Museum's *Guitar and Mandolin on a Table* (1924), and the Tehran Museum's astonishing *Painter and Model* (1927). According to Clark, the 1920s were a period when Picasso attempted to revive or exceed the terms of cubism, experimenting with new kinds of space.

"Monsters loom large," said Clark. "High cubism, in the 1910s, had been a style fired by the pursuit of Truth. Nietzsche, had he lived to see it, might have greeted it ironically as the last triumph of the 'ascetic ideal.' Picasso went on claiming that his art aimed at 'exactitude.' But what were the marks and tests of exactitude to be, at a time when cubism—cubism's grave and playful truth-telling—seemed to be turning, in the painter's hands, into a set of brilliant but unbelievable devices? Could cubism leave the small world of the studio and in some sense enter the public realm?"

The A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts

The A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts were established by the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art in 1949 "to bring to the people of the United States the results of the best contemporary thought and scholarship bearing upon the subject of the Fine Arts." The program is named for Andrew W. Mellon, the founder of the National Gallery of Art, who gave the nation his art collection and funds to build the West Building, which opened to the public in 1941.

T. J. Clark

T. J. Clark is George C. and Helen N. Pardee Chair and professor of history of art at the University of California, Berkeley. He received his PhD in the history of art from the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, and an undergraduate degree in modern history from St. John's College, Cambridge University. Before joining the

Berkeley faculty in 1987, Clark taught in England at the University of Leeds, the University of Essex, and Camberwell College of Arts at University of the Arts, London, and in the United States at UCLA and Harvard University. He was named a Getty Scholar by the Getty Research Institute in 2001 and 2002. He has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship and fellowships from, among others, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Paris, as well as two from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has served as a member of the Board of Advisors at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts.

His books include *Modernismos: Ensaios sobre política, história e teoria da arte* (2007); *The Sight of Death: An Experiment in Art Writing* (2006); *Afflicted Powers: Capital and Spectacle in a New Age of War* (with Iain Boal, Joseph Matthews, and Michael Watts, all four known collectively as Retort; 2005); *Farewell to an Idea: Episodes from a History of Modernism* (1999), which was chosen as an Outstanding Academic Title for 1999 by *Choice* magazine; *The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and His Followers* (1985); *Image of the People: Gustave Courbet and the 1848 Revolution* (1973); and *The Absolute Bourgeois: Artists and Politicians in France, 1848-1851* (1973). His articles and interviews have been published in numerous books and journals.

Clark's honors include election to the American Philosophical Society (2007), the British Academy (2001), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1992). In 2006, he received The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Achievement Award.

General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or

visit the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering the East and West Buildings. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 x 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

Press Office

National Gallery of Art
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785
phone: (202) 842-6353 e-mail: pressinfo@nga.gov


Deborah Ziska
Chief of Press and Public Information
(202) 842-6353
ds-ziska@nga.gov

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