



CUBISM: A NEW WAY OF SEEING

Tuesday 23rd May 2017

11.00am to 4.30pm (Access from 10.30am)

Keynes Library, Birkbeck School of Arts

43 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PD

This study day will analyse the most important idea in early twentieth-century painting and sculpture: cubism. A new form of modern realism that dismantled Renaissance picture-making, cubism opened the doors for many of the most significant artists of the twentieth century.

11.00 – 12.00 The first lecture will discuss the roots of cubism and its early manifestations in paintings made independently by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, inspired by colonial artefacts, late Cézanne and the traditions of European landscape and still life painting.

12.25 – 13.25 The second lecture will cover cubism's breakthrough in 'analytical cubism', discussing the role of fragmentary language, the use of traditional genres, and the function of jokes and puns.

14.15 – 15.10 The third lecture will address the role of collage in cubism, with a focus on 'synthetic cubist' works by Picasso and Braque that utterly transformed the status of the painting as object, as well as the development of cubist sculpture.

15.35 – 16.30 The final lecture will discuss the influence of cubism across Western Europe, Russia and the United States, the role of collectors in cubism's preservation and significance, and the broader cultural context of cubism as a distinctly modern invention.

Lecturer

Ben Street is a freelance art historian, lecturer and writer. He lectures on modern and contemporary art for Tate, Sotheby's Institute of Art, Christie's Education and the Royal Academy, and on old master painting for The National Gallery and Dulwich Picture Gallery. He is the author of interpretative materials for major exhibitions at Tate, the Royal Academy and the National Gallery and has contributed essays for museum and gallery publications across the world. Ben is the presenter and co-author of *Duchamp's Urinal* for BBC Radio 4.