



“Cultural Travels from Home” with Siân Walters of *Art History in Focus* **Tailor-made Livestream Tours**

In 2020 *Art History in Focus* Director Siân Walters launched a series of online, live walking tours, museum visits and demonstrations collaborating with friends and colleagues around the world, enabling us to enjoy cultural experiences together. Siân has established a special arrangement with a number of major European art galleries allowing virtual private access to their collections, from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice to the Castello Strozzi in Milan. We are proud to have devised and presented the world’s first ever livestream tours of the Medici Palace in Florence, the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, the Ca’ Rezzonico in Venice, the Bagatti Valsecchi Museum in Milan, the Basilica of San Marco in Venice, the Palazzo Baldeschi in Perugia, the Palazzo Colonna in Rome and many more.

Get in touch and allow us to arrange a unique experience for your visits/tour programme or for a corporate event.

We will take care of all of the organisation and hosting using the Zoom webinar platform. Simply choose from a selection of events in which we visit artists, art historians and guides in various cities and enjoy an hour’s guided tour, virtual museum visit or demonstration. The visits are live and interactive, allowing you to ask questions throughout the presentation.

The webinars will enable you to gain special access to sites, studios and galleries, whilst at the same time providing a wonderful opportunity to travel virtually from home, no matter your location. Our visits will also support both galleries and individuals working in the cultural sector. Alternatively, you may like to consider a themed study day combining a live lecture given by Siân with one of the virtual tours found below.

We are the first organisation in the world to have devised and arranged many of these visits and remain the sole provider of virtual tours with many of the museums, who are allowing us private access. Please get in touch for further details.

You can read a recent article about the tours here: <https://artdaily.com/news/133422/Basilica-of-St-Francis-in-Assisi-opens-its-doors-for-a-live-virtual-guided-tour>

“Thank you for another totally brilliant experience, you give us so much to enjoy and to contemplate in all these amazing online sessions!”



MAKING ART IN SIENA

We enjoy exclusive access to the workshop of a well-known artist living in Siena, just a few steps away from the famous Cathedral and *Museo dell'Opera*. Participate in a live interview and workshop as we explore the techniques which medieval and Renaissance artists would have used, from preparing a panel to drawing, gilding and tooling. Have you ever wondered what materials and pigments painters such as Duccio and Piero della Francesca would have used? How long would it have taken to complete a painting? How did they use gold leaf? All these questions and many more will be answered in this live, step-by-step demonstration in which we will observe the techniques which the great Italian painters employed. Siân recently ran this workshop for an online course which she taught at the National Gallery and it was very warmly received by both the gallery and participants: *"The session was just fascinating! I felt as if I was right there in his studio – thank you!"*



A LATIN AMERICAN MUSICAL JOURNEY

An exclusive interview and recital with internationally renowned classical guitarist Morgan Szymanski who will join us live from Mexico. Morgan has established himself as one of the finest performers of his generation and can regularly be heard at major UK venues including Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Queen Elizabeth Hall. In this interactive webinar Morgan will explore the history of the Latin American repertoire for the classical guitar, illustrating his informal discussion with works by Piazzolla, Ponce, Villa-Lobos and Leo Brouwer amongst others. You will also learn about the guitar technique, for example, what is "tremolo"? How do harmonics work? Morgan will be happy to answer your questions. Siân and Morgan have been friends for many years and are delighted to be collaborating together again, thanks to Zoom! *"That was incredible! There are no words to describe how wonderful it was.. It was one of the loveliest recitals I have heard for a long time and I can't believe how well it worked on my computer. Thank you for bringing this special evening directly to my living room!"*



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF VENICE

Enjoy a live, virtual walking tour of the Piazza San Marco in Venice in the company of one of the city's most well-known guides. We learn about not only the magnificent Basilica of St Mark's and the Doge's Palace but also the iconic campanile, the Bridge of Sighs, the Marciana Library and the ancient Mint as well as a few secrets rarely visited, such as the Olivetti Showroom designed by Carlo Scarpa. The tour lasts one hour including live Q&A session which Siân and our guide will manage and answer throughout the visit. *"That was brilliant! What a fabulous walking tour of Venice. It was absolutely fascinating being able to zoom in to see the fine detail of so many buildings, which you would struggle to see normally and it really felt as if you were there! Wonderful!"*

***Alternatively, choose a guided walking tour of another area of Venice:
Dorsoduro, Cannaregio, Castello or Santa Croce/San Polo.***



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE PEGGY GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION IN VENICE

We are delighted to have been given special permission to bring you live, interactive virtual tours of The Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. Peggy Guggenheim was one of the most important art patrons of the 20th century and became one of the most influential collectors, commissioning works from leading painters and sculptors such as Henry Moore, Constantin Brancusi, Jean Arp, Max Ernst, Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, Alexander Calder, Jackson Pollock and Joan Miró. Her private collection was displayed in her home in Venice, the impressive Palazzo Venier dei Leoni situated on the Grand Canal. The palace, along with its collection, was donated to The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in the 1970s. Our tour of the collection will be led by an expert local guide and includes interactive Q&A. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket" to the museum which will be opened especially for your group, on a day when the collection is closed to the public.



A PRIVATE OPENING OF THE BASILICA OF SAN MARCO IN VENICE

Art History in Focus has negotiated special permission to broadcast live tours from the world-famous Basilica of San Marco in Venice and in May 2021 presented the world's first ever livestream tour here. We are able to transport you live to the Basilica when it is closed to the public, a truly unique experience. Covered with glittering mosaics which adorn the walls, vaults and cupolas (the lights will be switched on especially for our visit), this is without doubt one of the most magnificent churches in the world. Our live tour includes the Pala d'Oro, a magnificent example of Byzantine workmanship made of hundreds of precious jewels and enamels, as well as areas which are never open to the public including the Cappella dei Mascoli and Baptistery. We will take time to explore the mosaic cycles in the narthex and domes, and learn about the extraordinary history and architecture of this iconic building. Finally, we step outside to explore the mosaics of the façade and take time to enjoy the beautiful Piazza San Marco. Our interactive tour will enable you to explore the Basilica from home and will be led by an expert local guide. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket" to the Basilica.



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CA' REZZONICO AND ITS ART COLLECTION IN VENICE

We have an exclusive arrangement with the Ca' Rezzonico in Venice, allowing us special access for live, virtual guided tours. This magnificent Venetian palace was acquired by the wealthy banker Giambattista Rezzonico in the 18th century who redecorated it in a sumptuous fashion with works from the greatest Venetian artists of his day, such as Giambattista Tiepolo. The ballroom is a particular highlight with its majestic *trompe l'oeil* ceiling, and the palace also has a fine art collection including view paintings by Canaletto and Guardi, sculptures by Andrea Brustolon and exquisite pastel portraits by the female artist Rosalba Carriera. Our tour of the palace and its collection will be led by expert local guide and includes interactive Q&A. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket" to the museum which will be opened especially for your group, on a day when the collection is closed to the public.



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE QUERINI STAMPALIA PALACE AND ITS ART COLLECTION IN VENICE

We have an exclusive arrangement with the Querini Stampalia Collection in Venice allowing us special access for live, virtual guided tours. Located just a few minutes away from St Mark's Square, the palace was once the home of one of the most influential and important aristocratic families in Venetian history. Its last owner, Conte Giovanni Querini, bequeathed the palace to a foundation along with its archive, library, furniture and priceless art collection, which includes masterpieces by Giovanni Bellini (above), Pietro Longhi, Gabriel Bella and many more. The palace is truly an exquisite, hidden Venetian jewel. Our tour will be led by an expert local guide and includes interactive Q&A throughout. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket" to the museum.



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE LIBRARY AT SAN FRANCESCO DELLA VIGNA IN VENICE

We have an exclusive arrangement with the Library of San Francesco della Vigna in Venice allowing us special access for live, virtual guided tours of its precious collection of manuscripts and ancient printed books. The library of the monastery is one of the hidden gems of Venice and known by very few. On our private tour we will have the chance to discover many of its rare works, including the first encyclopaedia ever printed in history. The technology we use will also allow us to magnify details in high resolution, thus creating an extra dimension of enjoyment and appreciation. Our tour will be led by an expert local guide and the Franciscan friar who has for many years taken care of these collections. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket" to the library.

We are constantly updating our programme in Venice and can now also offer a private tour of:

- **The Doge's Palace**
- **The Palazzo Grimani**
- **The Ca' Pesaro**
- **The Ca' d'Oro**
- **And many more**



A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CASTELLO SFORZESCO IN MILAN AND MICHELANGELO'S PIETA

We are able to offer a number of exclusive live virtual tours in Milan led by a renowned Italian art curator and scholar who is a resident of the city. These include an exclusive visit to the Castello Sforzesco, which contains several important museums displaying collections which belong to the city of Milan. One of the most notable works is Michelangelo's *Pietà Rondanini*. Alternatively, we are also able to arrange tours to the Portinari Chapel, the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, the **Brera Art Gallery** and the **Bagatti Valsecchi Museum**. All bookings will include a donation/"virtual entrance ticket".

We are the first organisation in the world to have devised and arranged many of these visits and remain the sole provider of virtual tours with many of the museums. Please get in touch for further details.



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF BUDAPEST

Enjoy a live walking tour of the beautiful Buda Castle district in Budapest in the company of one of the city's most well-known and entertaining guides. We will stroll through the main sites of the area, starting and ending at the Fisherman's Bastion which affords beautiful views over the River Danube towards Pest. We pass the magnificent Matthias church and Holy Trinity statue whilst learning about the history and architecture of the city, also covering topics such as the

Hungarian language, gastronomy, wine and culture. Our tour includes interactive Q&A which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF LJUBLJANA

Join a live walking tour through the historic heart of Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, where we will admire a wide variety of architectural styles from different periods in history. We are joined by one of the country's most authoritative and charming guides who will lead us on a fascinating walking tour, exploring the rich history of the city through its beautiful buildings - from the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque periods to examples of Biedermeier, neo-Classical and Secession architecture. We

will also learn about the exceptional buildings of Jože Plečnik. Our tour includes interactive Q&A which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.



EXPLORE POMPEII WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

Enjoy a live, guided tour of the world famous archaeological site of Pompeii in the company of an expert archaeologist who is also one of the site's most authoritative and enthusiastic guides. All bookings will include a donation / "virtual entrance ticket" which will help support the site. Starting from the Porta Marina Superiore where Mount Vesuvius is clearly visible, we continue past the Basilica, Forum and main temples, walking along the Decumanus Major (the main street of

Pompeii) where we will see the Roman baths and also a Roman fast food shop. We spend time learning about the tragic eruption of 79AD when so many lost their lives - a particularly poignant reminder of that event is the area dedicated to the plaster casts of those who attempted unsuccessfully to flee the city, only to be encased in layers of pumice and ash. Our tour will end with a stunning view of the city from the terrace near the theatre and gladiators' barracks. Our tour includes interactive Q&A which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF LISBON

Enjoy a live walking tour of the beautiful Belém district of Lisbon. Our expert local guide will begin our tour in front of the ornate Jerónimos Monastery, a magnificent example of Manueline architecture. Built by the king of Portugal Manuel I, it was populated by monks of the order of St Jerome who would pray for his soul and provide spiritual guidance and assistance to sailors. We will also see the Belém tower, the exterior of the Monument to the Discoveries and the famous bakery which produces the delicious traditional Pastéis de Belém cakes, following an ancient recipe once made by the monks. Our tour includes interactive Q&A

which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF FLORENCE

Join a live walking tour through the historic heart of Florence, led by one of the city's most experienced guides. We start at the Piazza Santa Croce in front of the beautiful Franciscan church and stroll along the Borgo dei Greci before arriving in the Piazza della Signoria, the ancient political and commercial heart of the city. Here we can admire Giambologna's huge equestrian statue of Cosimo I, Ammannati's Neptune Fountain and a copy of Michelangelo's celebrated David. Nearby lies the Uffizi Gallery which we pass en route towards the River Arno where we conclude our tour from a viewpoint looking towards the elegant Ponte Vecchio, the most famous bridge in Florence. Our tour includes interactive Q&A which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.

Alternatively, if you prefer a museum tour in Florence we have negotiated permission to run livestream tours of the **Medici Palace** and the **Casa Buonarroti**. We are adding to our programme regularly.



A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF PORTO

Join a live walking tour along the river in the heart of Porto. The river's long history began with its naval associations, before becoming an active and prosperous harbour, protected by a medieval fort and granite arcades. As the docks grew it morphed into a unique cobblestone neighbourhood populated by small 14th century houses, painted in bright colours and adorned by wrought-iron balconies. The riverfront or "Ribeira", is now the most iconic and visited part of Porto. The best vantage, however, is from the other side of the river in Gaia, so we will cross over the bridge for spectacular views and to discuss the famous Port Wine! The tour will end with a visit to Bordallo II's "Half Rabbit", an amazing art installation by one of the country's best street artists. Our tour includes interactive Q&A which Siân and our guide will manage throughout the visit.

You may like to consider a themed study day combining a live lecture given by Siân followed by one of the virtual tours found above. For example:

- A lecture on Canaletto followed by a livestream visit to the Ca' Rezzonico in Venice
- A lecture on the Sienese Golden Age followed by a livestream visit to an artist's workshop in Siena
- A lecture on Leonardo da Vinci at the Sforza Court followed by a livestream visit to the Castello Sforzesco in Milan
- A lecture on the Guggenheim in Bilbao followed by a livestream visit to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice
- A lecture on Venetian Renaissance painting followed by a livestream tour of a Venetian museum.

For further information and booking, please contact info@arthistoryinfocus.com

Please see the website for a list of testimonials