

London Interfaith Sacred Art Forum & Sacred Art in Collections pre-1900

Thursday 8 September 2022, 6.00 – 7.30pm

Sainsbury Wing Lecture Theatre and Online

CROSSING BORDERS AND CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

6.00 - 6.10pm – Welcome - **Gabriele Finaldi** (Director, The National Gallery)

6.10 - 6.20pm – Introduction - **Susanna Avery-Quash** (Senior Research Curator (History of Collecting), The National Gallery)

6.20 - 6.30pm – Orazio Gentileschi's *The Finding of Moses* and Crossing Borders

Ayla Lepine (2021–22 Ahmanson Fellow in Art and Religion, The National Gallery and Associate Rector, St James's Piccadilly)

6.30 - 6.45pm – Crossing Borders and the Take One Picture programme

Catherine Heath (Co-ordinator, Take One Picture Programme, The National Gallery)

6.45 - 7.15pm – New Approaches to Sacred Art in Theology and Museums

Chair: **Sam Wells** (Vicar, St Martin-in-the-Fields)

Speakers:

Melissa Raphael (Professor Emerita, Jewish Theology, University of Gloucestershire)

Jarel Robinson-Brown (Assistant Curate, St Botolph-without-Aldgate)

Thomas Ardill (Curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Museum of London)

Jasmine Allen (Director, Stained Glass Museum)

7.15 - 7.25pm – Film Launch - *One Painting Many Voices: The Finding of Moses*

7.25pm – Closing Remarks

This event is supported by Howard and Roberta Ahmanson.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Gabriele Finaldi

(Director, The National Gallery)

Gabriele Finaldi has been Director of the National Gallery since August 2015. He was previously Deputy Director for Collections and Research at the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, a position he took up in 2002. Prior to his role at the Prado, he was a curator at the National Gallery between 1992 and 2002, where he was responsible for the later Italian paintings in the collection (Caravaggio to Canaletto) and the Spanish collection (Bermejo to Goya). Finaldi studied art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art, where he completed his doctorate in 1995 on Jusepe de Ribera, a 17th-century Spanish painter who worked in Italy. He has curated exhibitions in Britain, Spain, Italy, Belgium and the US. He has written catalogues and scholarly articles on Velázquez and Zurbarán, Italian Baroque painting, and religious iconography.

Susanna Avery-Quash

(Senior Research Curator
(History of Collecting),
The National Gallery)

Dr Susanna Avery-Quash is Senior Research Curator (History of Collecting) at the National Gallery, in charge of pre-1900 objects in its History Collection, and responsible for activities associated with its research strands, ‘Art and Religion’, ‘Buying, Collecting and Display’, its Women and the Arts Forum, and its Legacies of British Slave Ownership research project, including managing research partnerships, organising conferences and supervising graduate students. She recently published ‘Reanimating sacred art for a secular age: Art and religion at the National Gallery, London’, in Timothy Verdon and Rita Filardi, eds, *Museology and Values: Human Dignity in the Twenty-first Century* (Brepols, 2020).

Ayla Lepine

(2021–22 Ahmanson
Fellow in Art and Religion,
The National Gallery,
and Associate Rector,
St James’s Piccadilly)

Ayla Lepine was Ahmanson Fellow in Art and Religion at the National Gallery (2021–22) and is now Associate Rector at St James’s Piccadilly in London. Following her PhD from the Courtauld Institute of Art, she held fellowships at the Courtauld and Yale, and was a Lecturer and Fellow in Art History at the University of Essex. Her publications include co-edited books on monastic architecture and modern visual culture, as well as articles on art and theology in *Architectural History*, the *Sculpture Journal*, and *British Art Studies*. She is a trustee of the UK charity *Art and Christianity*, a contributor to the *Visual Commentary on Scripture*, and a member of the Visual Arts Committee at St Paul’s Cathedral.

Catherine Heath

(Co-ordinator,
Take One Picture Programme,
The National Gallery)

Catherine Heath runs Take One Picture - the Gallery’s national programme for primary schools. She has several years of experience working with children and young people in arts and education programmes and a particular interest in children’s responses to the Gallery’s collection. Catherine holds a first-class undergraduate degree in Classical Studies from the University of Bristol and a master’s degree in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Oxford.

Sam Wells

(Vicar, St Martin-in-the-Fields)

Sam Wells has been Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields since 2012 and is a well-known preacher, broadcaster, author and theologian. St Martin’s is a unique configuration of national and international commercial, cultural and charitable initiatives rooted in the life of a Church of England congregation. Sam is also Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King’s College London. His most recent book is *Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Faith to Live By*.

Jasmine Allen

(Director, Stained Glass
Museum)

Jasmine Allen is the Director and Curator of The Stained Glass Museum, an independent museum located in Ely Cathedral. The Stained Glass Museum houses a collection of both national and international significance, spanning the medieval era to the present day. Jasmine studied History of Art at the University of York and has published widely on aspects of postmedieval stained glass, especially of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Thomas Ardill

(Curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Museum of London)

Melissa Raphael

(Professor Emerita, Jewish Theology, University of Gloucestershire)

Jarel Robinson-Brown

(Assistant Curate, St Botolph-without-Aldgate)

After writing for the JMW Turner bequest catalogue and working on displays at Tate Britain, Thomas completed his PhD (Religious painting as a public spectacle in Britain, about 1800–1832) at the Courtauld Institute in 2016. He has co-curated the exhibitions: *Secret Rivers* (2019) and *Executions* (2022–3) at the Museum of London Docklands and is currently working on future displays at the London Museum on the subjects of London’s built environment, Entertainment and Faith.

Melissa Raphael is Professor Emerita (Jewish Theology) at the University of Gloucestershire and teaches Modern Jewish Thought to student rabbis at Leo Baeck College, London. She has been the British Government’s representative on what was then known as the International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research; the Sherman Lecturer in Jewish Studies at the University of Manchester University, and the Hussey Lecturer in the Church and the Arts at the University of Oxford. Her books include *The Female Face of God in Auschwitz: A Jewish Feminist Theology of the Holocaust* (2003); *Judaism and the Visual Image: A Jewish Theology of Art* (2009), and *Religion, Feminism, and Idoloclasm: Being and Becoming in the Women’s Liberation Movement* (2019).

Father Jarel Robinson-Brown is a Church of England priest and the Assistant Curate at St Botolph-without-Aldgate and Holy Trinity Minorities in the Diocese of London. He is also Visiting Scholar in Contemporary Spirituality at Sarum College, Salisbury and Co-Chair of the LGBT+ Christian Charity OneBodyOneFaith, which works for the full inclusion of LGBT+ people in the Church. He is particularly interested in the body, desire, gender and ethnicity in Christian Late Antiquity and has published in the areas of queer theology, liberation theology and trauma theology. His book, *Black, Gay, Christian, Queer: The Church and the Famine of Grace*, was published in 2021.