



**Art Appreciation Lecture Series 2014
Realism to Surrealism: European Art and Culture 1848-1936**

Victorian classical painters and the cult of beauty

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Lecture summary:

This lecture will investigate the work of a diverse group of English artists sometimes known as the “Victorian Olympians”. It will explore the context in mid nineteenth-century Britain in which an interest in classical subject matter and a classical style developed amongst younger artists, with the work of certain leading figures associated with this ‘classical revival’ being examined, including Edward Poynter, Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Albert Moore and G. F. Watts. Particular focus will be given to the career of Sir Frederic Leighton PRA and the confluence of the classical movement with Aestheticism, and its cult of beauty and ‘art for art’s sake’. Special attention will be given, whenever possible, to works by these artists in Australian collections and the background of their acquisition.

Slide list:

1. John Everett Millais, *Lorenzo and Isabella*, 1849, oil on canvas, Walker Gallery, National Museums Liverpool.
2. Frederic Leighton, *And the Sea Gave Up the Dead Which Were In It*, c.1890, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
3. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *The Vintage Festival*, 1871, oil on wood panel, National Gallery of Victoria.
4. Frederic Leighton, *Electra at the Tomb of Agamemnon*, c.1868, oil on canvas, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Museums, UK.
5. Albert Moore, *The Quartet, a Painter’s Tribute to Music*, 1868.
6. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *A Juggler*, 1870, oil on panel, Art Gallery of NSW.
7. Edward John Poynter, *Adoration to Ra*, 1867.
8. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *Phidias Showing the Frieze of the Parthenon to his Friends*, 1868, oil on canvas, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.
9. Edward John Poynter, *The Catapult*, 1872, oil on canvas, Laing Art Gallery.
10. Théodore Chassériau, *Tepidarium*, 1853, oil on canvas, Musée d’Orsay.
11. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *Expectations*, 1885, oil on canvas, private collection.
12. Edward John Poynter, *The Fortune Teller*, 1877, oil on canvas, private collection.
13. Edward John Poynter, *Chloe*, 1892, oil on canvas.
14. Albert Joseph Moore, *Dreamers*, 1882, oil on canvas, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham.
15. Edward Burne Jones, *Perseus and Andromeda*, oil on canvas, 1876, Art Gallery of South Australia.
16. Simeon Solomon, *Bacchus*, 1867, oil on wood.
17. Thomas Armstrong, *Woman with Lilies*, 1876, oil on canvas, Laing Art Gallery.

18. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Helen of Troy*, 1863, oil on panel, Walker Gallery, National Museums Liverpool.
19. Simeon Solomon, *Dionysus (Bacchus) god of wine and revelry / Bacchus*, 1867.
20. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Pandora*, 1879, watercolour, Faringdon Collection Trust.
21. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Proserpine*, oil on canvas, 1874, Tate, London.
22. Edward Burne-Jones, *The Golden Stairs*, 1880, oil on canvas, Tate, London, bequeathed by Lord Battersea 1924.
23. Frederick Sandys, *Medea*, 1868, oil on canvas, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham.
24. Walter Crane, *The Renaissance of Venus*, 1877, tempera on canvas, Tate, London.
25. Evelyn de Morgan, *Flora*, 1897, oil on canvas, De Morgan Centre, London.
26. John M. Strudwick, *A story book*, 1883-84, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of New South Wales.
27. *John William Waterhouse, *Ulysses and the Sirens*, 1891, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Victoria.
28. John William Waterhouse, *Circe Invidiosa*, 1892, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of South Australia.
29. John William Waterhouse, *'I'm half sick of shadows' – said the Lady of Shalott*, 1915, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.
30. George Frederick Watts, *Alfred Tennyson*, c.1858, oil on wood panels, National Gallery of Victoria.

31. Ethel Case after George Frederick Watts, *Lord Tennyson*, c.1850, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, Gift of Hallam Lord Tennyson, Governor General of the Commonwealth 1903.
32. Frederic Leighton, *Self Portrait*, 1880, oil on canvas, Uffizi Gallery, Florence.
33. Philipp Viet, *The Introduction of the Arts into Germany by Religion*, c.1834, oil on canvas, Städel Museum, Frankfurt.
34. Leighton House, *The Arab Hall*.
35. Leighton House, *Central Stair Case*.
36. Leighton House, *Outside View*.
37. Leighton House, *Hallway*.
38. Frederic Leighton, *Sir Richard Burton*, oil on canvas, 1872-1885, National Portrait Gallery, London.
39. Frederic Leighton, *The Death of Brunelleschi*, 1852, oil on canvas, Leighton House Museum, London.
40. Frederic Leighton, *The Feigned Death of Juliet*, 1856-58, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of South Australia, Elder Bequest Fund 1899.
41. Frederic Leighton, *Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna is carried in Procession through the Streets of Florence*, c.1853-55, oil on canvas, National Gallery London.
42. Frederic Leighton, *Study for 'Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna...': Head of Giotto*, 1854, black chalk on paper, Royal Academy of Arts, London.
43. William Holman Hunt, *The Awakening Conscience*, 1853, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
44. John Everett Millais, *Ophelia*, 1851-52, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
45. Frederic Leighton, *The Fisherman and the Syren*, c.1856-58, oil on canvas, private collection.
46. Frederic Leighton, *Odalisque*, 1862, oil on canvas, private collection.
47. Frederic Leighton, *A Roman Lady*, 1858, oil on canvas, private collection.
48. Frederic Leighton, *Pavonia*, 1869, oil on canvas, private collection.
49. Frederic Leighton, *Bocca Baciata*, 1859, oil on canvas, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
50. Frederic Leighton, *Moses Views the Promised Land*, from illustrations for *Dalziel's Bible Gallery*, engraved by the Dalzeil Brothers, published 1881, wood engraving on paper, Tate, London.
51. Frederic Leighton, *The Golden Hours*, 1864, oil on canvas, private collection.
52. Frederic Leighton, *Wedded*, 1882, oil on canvas, mounted on hardboard, Art Gallery of NSW.
53. Frederic Leighton, *The Syracusan Bride*, c. 1867, Dahesh Museum of Art, New York.

54. Jean-Léon Gérôme, *Young Greeks Attending a Cock Fight, also called The Cock Fight*, 1846, oil on canvas, Musée d'Orsay, Paris.
55. *Elgin Marbles*, British Museum, London.
56. Frederic Leighton, *Knucklebones*, 1867, oil on canvas, private collection.
57. George Frederick Watts, *Ariadne on the Island of Naxos*, 1875, oil on canvas, Guildhall Gallery, London.
58. Albert Joseph Moore, *A Workbasket*, 1879, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of South Australia.
59. Frederic Leighton, *Venus Disrobing for the Bath*, c.1866, private collection.
60. Albert Joseph Moore, *A Venus*, 1869, oil on canvas, York City Art Gallery.
61. *Venus de Milo*, between 130 and 100 BC, marble, Louvre, Paris.
62. George Frederick Watts, *Thetis*, 1866-69, Watts Gallery, Crompton.
63. George Frederick Watts, *The Wife of Pygmalion*, c. 1868, oil on canvas, Buscot Park, Oxfordshire.
64. Frederic Leighton, *The Bath of Psyche*, 1890, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
65. Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, *The Source*, 1856, oil on canvas, Musée d'Orsay, Paris.
66. Frederic Leighton, *The Daphnephoria*, 1874-76, oil on canvas, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Liverpool.
67. William-Adolphe Bouguereau, *The Youth of Bacchus*, 1884, oil on canvas, private collection.
68. Frederic Leighton, *The Industrial Arts Applied to War*, c.1880, fresco, Victoria & Albert Museum, London.
69. Frederic Leighton, *The Industrial Arts Applied to Peace*, late 1878-80, fresco, Victoria & Albert Museum, London.
70. *Frederic Leighton, *Cymon and Iphigenia*, 1884, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1976.
71. *Frederic Leighton, *Winding the Skein*, c.1878, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1974.
72. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *Pottery Painting*, 1871, oil on canvas, City of Manchester Art Galleries, Manchester.
73. Lawrence Alma-Tadema, *An Oleander*, 1882, oil on canvas, private collection.
74. Frederic Leighton, *The Return of Persephone*, c.1891, oil on canvas, Leeds Museums and Galleries.
75. Frederic Leighton, *Perseus and Andromeda*, 1891, oil on canvas, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth.
76. *Frederic Leighton in Studio*, c.1880.
77. Frederic Leighton, *Flaming June* [without frame] 1895, oil on canvas, Ponce Museum of Art, Puerto Rico.
78. Frederic Leighton, *Flaming June* [with frame] 1895, oil on canvas, Ponce Museum of Art, Puerto Rico.
79. * Edward John Poynter, *The Queen of Sheba before Solomon*, 1896, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1892.
80. Edward John Poynter, *Study for the head of the Queen of Sheba*, late 1880s, black chalk highlighted with white chalk on paper, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1975.
81. Edward John Poynter, *Study for the Queen of Sheba*, c.1889, black and white chalk on brown paper, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1985.
82. Edward John Poynter, *Study of a kneeling figure, and of clothing; study of a bearded head*, 1885, black chalk heightened with white chalk on brown paper, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1989.
83. Edward John Poynter, *Two studies of harp players*, late 1880s, black chalk heightened with white chalk on red-brown paper, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1990.
84. Edward John Poynter, *Two studies of the back of a crouching man*, late 1880s, black chalk heightened with white chalk on red-brown paper, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1990.
85. Alison Inglis, "The Queen of the South': Archaeology and Empire in Edward J. Poynter's The Visit to the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon", *Melbourne Art Journal*, No. 5, 2001, p. 32-33.
86. Unknown, *Albert Joseph Moore*, photograph, c.1870.

87. Albert Joseph Moore, *The Shulamite*, 1864-1866, oil on canvas, National Museums Liverpool.
88. Albert Joseph Moore, *Pomegranates*, 1866, oil on canvas, City of London.
89. Albert Joseph Moore, *A Summer Night*, oil on canvas, 1890, National Museums Liverpool.
90. Albert Joseph Moore, *Midsummer*, 1897, oil on canvas, Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth.
91. Frederic Leighton, *Lindos, Rhodes*, c.1867, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW.
92. Frederic Leighton, *Colour study for 'Cymon and Iphigenia'*, 1884, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW.
93. Frederic Leighton, *Drapery study for 'Cymon and Iphigenia'*, ND, black and white chalk on brown paper, Art Gallery of NSW.
94. Frederic Leighton, *Studies for sleeping group in 'Cymon and Iphigenia'*, c.1884, black and white chalk on brown paper, National Gallery of Victoria.
95. Frederic Leighton, *Fatidica*, 1894, oil on canvas, National Museums Liverpool.
96. Frederic Leighton, *Perseus, on Pegasus, Hastening to the Rescue of Andromeda*, c.1896, oil on canvas, Leicester Museum.
97. George Frederick Watts, *Self Portrait*, 1864, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
98. George Frederick Watts, *Echo*, 1844-1846, oil on canvas, Watts Gallery, UK.
99. George Frederick Watts, *Clytie*, late 1860s, oil on panel, Watts Gallery, UK.
100. George Frederick Watts, *Artemis and Hyperion*, c.1881, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW.
101. George Frederick Watts, *Love and Death*, c.1887, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Victoria,
102. George Frederick Watts, *Love and Death*, 1901, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of South Australia.
103. George Frederick Watts, *Love and Life*, c.1884-5, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
104. Simeon Solomon, *Allegorical Self Portrait*, 1873.
105. Simeon Solomon, *Head of a Girl*, no date, oil on wood, Art Gallery of NSW.
106. Simeon Solomon, *The Moon and Sleep*, 1894, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
107. Philip Burne Jones, *Sir Edward John Poynter*, 1909, oil on canvas, National Portrait Gallery.
108. Edward John Poynter, *A Visit to Aesculapius*, 1880, oil on canvas, Tate, London.
109. *Edward John Poynter, *Helen*, 1881, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW.
110. Edward John Poynter, *Psyche in the Temple of Love*, 1882, oil on canvas, National Museums Liverpool.
111. Edward John Poynter, *Diadumene*, 1883, oil on canvas, Royal Albert Memorial Museum.
112. Edward John Poynter, *Helena and Mermia*, 1901, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of South Australia.
113. Dalziel Brothers (engravers) Edward John Poynter (after), *Miriam*, 1864, wood engraving, National Gallery of Victoria.

References:

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Images:



Edward John Poynter, *The Queen of Sheba before Solomon*, 1896, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1892.



Edward John Poynter, *Helen*, 1881, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1968.



Frederic Leighton, *Cymon and Iphigenia*, 1884, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1976.



Frederic Leighton, *Winding the Skein*, c.1878, oil on canvas, Art Gallery of NSW, purchased 1974.



John William Waterhouse, *Ulysses and the Sirens*, 1891, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Purchased, 1891