

OUR SPEAKER on **Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 1:30pm**
will be

Clare Phillips

who will talk to us about:

Decadence and Dreams: Jewellery from around 1900



Clare Phillips (M.A. Royal College of Art, London) has been a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum since 1989. As a jewellery historian she is part of the small team dedicated to the V&A's jewellery collection and is the author of the V&A's classic book '*Jewels & Jewellery*'. In addition to her work with the permanent collection, she has been responsible for the more focussed jewellery content within many major V&A exhibitions from '*Art Nouveau: 1890-1914*' in 2000 to '*Frida Kahlo: Making Her Self Up*' in 2018. Her books range from Thames & Hudson's accessible introductory

text '*Jewelry - from Antiquity to the Present*' to '*Chaumet Tiaras: Divine Jewels*' which she co-authored in 2019. In 2006 she curated the exhibition '*Bejewelled by Tiffany*' at the Gilbert Collection, Somerset House.

The decades around 1900 witnessed a fascinating variety of styles and produced some of the most elegant pieces of jewellery ever made. Diamonds and pearls - the mainstay of European court jewellery - were arranged in garlands and ribbon bows of incredible delicacy. At the same time symmetry was challenged by the sinuous lines of Art Nouveau, and the 'one colour theory' long practised in European jewellery was undermined by a fascination with unusual gemstones and a more luxuriant sense of colour.

The lecture will explore the distinctive styles of great jewellers such as Cartier, Fabergé, Tiffany and Lalique, and examine also the contrasting aesthetic of Britain's Arts and Crafts Movement with its celebration of traditional craftsmanship, unfaceted stones and hand-beaten metals.

Want to find out more? For further information visit the Society's website at www.theartssocietywindsor.org.uk, or email us at info@theartssocietywindsor.org.uk We meet live on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN N.B. Please consult our website re each lecture which we will update regularly.