

National Gallery of Victoria

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James Gillray English 1756-1815 Titianus redivivus: -or- the seven-wise men consulting the new Venetian oracle, -a Scene in ye Academic Grove, No 1 1797 (detail) Hand-coloured etching, aquatint 54.1 x 40.8 cm The British Museum, London Donated by William Smith, 1851

Mr Angus Trumble, Director, Nationa Portrait Gallery of Australia, with Self portrait at easel by Fred Williams

© Estate of Fred Williams

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Event partner: Jenny Lempriére.

Lvn Williams AM.



ANNUAL LECTURE

Tue 17 Mar 2015, 6pm



Benjamin West and 'The Venetian Secret' By Mr Angus Trumble, Director, National Portrait Gallery of Australia

In 1796 a shadowy figure, Thomas Provis, and his artist daughter, Ann Jemima Provis, persuaded the Americanborn artist Benjamin West that they possessed a copy of an old manuscript purporting to contain descriptions of materials and techniques used by the Venetian painters of the High Renaissance. West used these materials and techniques in secret to execute a large history painting entitled Cicero Discovering the Tomb of Archimedes (1796–97). In fact, the manuscript was fake and the story an absurd invention, but West believed it, and through him the Provises managed to dupe a number of other key artist members of the Royal Academy of Arts in London. When the fraud was finally exposed, the embarrassment was far worse for West than it was for the other victims because it was largely through his influential position as second president of the Academy that the perpetrators managed to gain access to so many of his variously hapless, dim-witted, or simply greedy colleagues. What do the two surviving versions of Cicero Discovering the Tomb of Archimedes tell us about the 'Venetian Secret', and why did West fall for it?



Tue 17 Mar 2015

6pm refreshments followed by 7pm lecture

Cost: \$65 including light refreshments from 6–7pm

Venue:

Clemenger BBDO Auditorium NGV International 180 St Kilda Road Melbourne Please enter via the North Foyer, accessible from the Arts Centre forecourt

Event Code: NGVWA170315 Bookings: 03 8662 1555, 10am–5pm daily or by return Booking Form

Funds raised will support NGV Acquisitions ngv.vic.gov.au/ngvwa

NGV Women's Association Annual Lecture Event Code: NGVWA170315

Name					
Address			Post CodeTel.		
NGV Member number (if applicable)					
Number of Tickets (\$65 each inc GST)					
I am unable to attend, but would like to make a tax deductible donation of \$					
Payment by cheque to the National Gallery of Victoria, or by credit card:					
Credit card details:	Visa	Mastercard	Diners	American Express	
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Name/s of guest/s					

Mail to: NGV Bookings, PO Box 7259, Melbourne VIC 3004. Ph 03 8662 1555