



POLITICAL SATIRE: HOGARTH AT THE HUSTINGS - THE ELECTION ENTERTAINMENT SERIES AND THE BIRTH OF POLITICAL SATIRE

RUPERT DICKENS

The Arts Society Fylde

Lowther Pavilion Theatre

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Of course, we know of William Hogarth (1697-1764) from his unsparing depiction of life's failures and foibles with his "modern, moral subjects" - *Gin Lane*, *Marriage A-la-Mode* or *A Rake's Progress*, for example. Today's lecturer is looking, however, at the *Election Entertainment* series. The long British tradition of political satire is coming to the fore again in the year of a General Election. Rupert Dickens will argue that, at the root of that tradition, is Hogarth's *Election Entertainment* series of paintings and prints from the 1750s. His ruthless exposure of electoral corruption and hypocrisy sets the stage for later generations of satirists including James Gillray, *Private Eye* and today's digital artist Cold War Steve. On his first visit to The Arts Society Fylde, Rupert will help us to look more closely at the *Election* series and will explain Hogarth's many jokes and references - revealing some themes with surprising topical relevance, from voter identification to the politics of immigration.

Local politics has not been without its challenges in recent months - at least we can perhaps take some comfort from knowing that earlier times faced some tricky problems, as well.

RUPERT DICKENS

Rupert Dickens is an art historian based in south London with a special interest in Dutch and Flemish 16th and 17th century painting. He works at the Wallace Collection as a guide conducting public and private tours and lecturing on aspects of the collection. Rupert is also a tour director for a Cambridge-based company accompanying groups on art-themed tours to the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Austria and Italy. He has lectured to large audiences on subjects as diverse as the game of chess in art and Madame de Pompadour's artistic patronage in 18th century France. He studied art history at Birkbeck College before undertaking a Masters in Dutch Golden Age Studies at University College London. Before that Rupert had a 26-year career as a BBC journalist ending as an editor in radio news.



SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Hogarth: A Life and a World, Jenny Uglow, Faber and Faber, 1998

Hogarth: A Life in Progress, Jacqueline Riding, Profile Books, 2021

The Soane Hogarths, Christine Scull, Sir John Soane Museum, 2007

Image: William Hogarth, Samuel Ireland after William Hogarth, etching, published 1786 National Portrait Gallery, London, by permission