

Serge Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes

Date/Time	Thursday 15 September 2022 11.00am to 4.15pm	Price	£38
Venue	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9DP NB: First Floor with no lift	Lecturer	Jane Pritchard

Introduction

2022 marks 150 years since the birth of Diaghilev whose Ballets Russes transformed the art world at the start of the twentieth century. The programme looks at this influential animateur and his galaxy of stars from the worlds of art, music and dance.

Lecture 1 'The World of Art' and the art world Diaghilev would change

The first lecture looks at Serge Diaghilev's life and passions before establishing the Ballets Russes and the art world he was about to transform.

Lecture 2 From Art Nouveau to the avant-garde, 1909-1914

The session looks at the birth of the Ballets Russes when Mikhail Fokine and Vaslav Nijinsky and others revolutionised dance and its music. The productions evolved from the jewel-like colours of Léon Bakst's designs to the acidic palette of Natalia Goncharova.

Lecture 3 European Modernism turns to dance, 1915-1921

In 1919 Diaghilev created new ballets designed by the greatest artists of the day – Pablo Picasso, André Derain and Henri Matisse. The period reveals the Ballets Russes at its most conservative and its most experimental.

Lecture 4 The search for novelty, 1922-29

The last decade included the masterpieces *Les Noces* and *Apollon Musagète*. Alongside were ballets that captured the mood of the 1920s designed by Giorgio de Chirico, Naum Gabo, Pedro Pruna, Pavel Tchelitchev and Coco Chanel.

Lecturer

Jane Pritchard has been Curator for Dance at the V&A, London, since 2006. Previously she established archives for Rambert, English National Ballet and London Contemporary Dance Theatre. She has curated seasons of dance films, presented on radio and television, contributed to numerous publications and she was awarded an MBE for services to the arts in the 2014 New Year's Honours.