London Art History Society

Affiliated to Birkbeck History of Art

STUDY DAY

The Etruscans: Art and Culture in Iron Age Italy

Date/Time	Friday 9th April 2027 11am - 4.30pm	**Price**	£49 in person £44 post-event recording
Venue	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB	**Lecturer**	Dr Steve Kershaw

This study day investigates the fascinating Etruscan culture, which flourished in present-day Tuscany and throughout the Italian peninsula between the 9th and 2nd centuries BCE. The wealth the Etruscans accumulated through trade allowed them to become one of the major powers in the Mediterranean, alongside the Greeks and the Phoenicians, until, by the 1st century BCE, they were conquered and fully assimilated into the Roman Empire. The day's studies will encompass the identity and history of these rather enigmatic people, especially as it intertwines with early Rome: it was the Etruscans who taught the Romans to wear togas, introduced them to hydraulic engineering, urban planning, winemaking, gladiatorial games, and "Roman" numerals. They were also some of the most skilled craftspeople in the ancient world: expert bronzesmiths and renowned creators of lavish gold jewelry; sculptors of exquisitely crafted works in bronze and terracotta; brilliant painters of tombs where feasting, music, and life's other pleasures could continue for eternity; innovators in the art of portraiture; adept architects; and, in the words of the Roman historian Livy, the most religious people of antiquity. Without the Etruscans, there might never have been 'the glory that was Rome', but they stand in their own right as a thriving and sophisticated Iron Age civilisation in the heart of ancient Italy.

Lectures

1 - Etruscan History and Identity: Who Were the Etruscans?

2 - Portraits and Pottery: Distinctive Artistic Excellence.

3 - Metalwork: Sculpture, Jewellery, and Luxury.

4 - Tombs and Temples: Architecture and Painting for the Gods, the Living and the Dead.

Lecturer

Dr Steve Kershaw has spent a long career travelling extensively in the Ancient World, both physically and intellectually as a Tutor for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, Professor of History of Art for the *European Studies* Program of Rhodes College and The University of the South, and as a lecturer for the Victoria and Albert Museum. He has been an expert contributor to the History Channel's *Barbarians Rising* series and *Atlantis: The Discovery with Dan Snow* on Channel 5, appeared regularly on BBC Radio 4's *You're Dead to Me*, and his various publications include *The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology, A Brief History of Atlantis: Plato's Ideal State,* and *Mythologica* – which was Amazon.com's Best Children's Non-Fiction Book of 2019. He is also an internationally renowned jazz double-bass player.