The Conservation and Restoration of Paintings

This lecture discusses the nature of painting materials from the Middle Ages to the present day and common problems associated with the ageing and deterioration of easel paintings on canvas, panel, board or paper in a range of mediums: oil, acrylic, egg tempera and mixed media. Problems can involve natural deterioration and neglect, accidental damage, vandalism and even war – the most surprising event being a large hole caused by a Turkish cannon ball going through a picture in the 18th century!! Modern ‘museum standard’ approaches to conservation and restoration are illustrated with superb detailed images ranging from early Italian religious paintings in egg tempera via rapid oil sketches on paper by John Constable to 20th century British portraits and modern abstract works, many from little known collections, taken during Sarah’s conservation treatments. Hints and advice on the proper care of paintings in homes is given in liberal doses throughout!

Sarah Cove is an Accredited paintings conservator and technical art historian. She is a specialist in British portraits and 19th and 20th paintings. She is the recognised expert on John Constable’s painting materials and techniques. She is an outstanding and much-demanded lecturer and presenter and has appeared to much critical acclaim on BBC1’s ‘Fake or Fortune?’ in 2014 and 2017.