



1666
THE YEAR IN QUESTION

Tuesday 2 October

The Great Fire of London destroyed some 1400 buildings; in his diary, Samuel Pepys describes the conflagration of the ruined city all around him. From the London perspective, this year answered to the doomsayers who predicted that the references to 666 in the Book of Revelation would signal 'the year of the beast'. Yet this was a year of cultural triumph: Milton completed *Paradise Lost*, Vermeer his largest and most complex work, *The Art of Painting*, and Bernini the magnificent colonnade of St Peter's. Margaret Cavendish writes the first work of science fiction *The Blazing-World*; Stradivari makes his Ex Back violin; The Herrenhausen garden, most magnificent baroque garden in Europe, is inaugurated; Molière's comedy *The Misanthrope* premières at the Théâtre du Palais-Royal in Paris. Isaac Newton invents differential calculus and with Robert Hooke discovers gravity; the English and the Dutch battle at sea in the second Anglo-Dutch War, recorded in vivid watercolour by Willem van de Velde, as it took place before his eyes.

All Culture in Question lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lecture begins at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. The event ends by 3.30 p.m.

£85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members. Your family, friends and neighbours who have not previously attended an Inscape lecture are most welcome to attend as our guests