



Exhibition Study Day

## TROY: MYTH AND REALITY

British Museum

Tuesday 28 January

Brought to pulsating life by Homer and Virgil, more than three thousand years ago, the classic narrative of Troy, is nothing but extraordinary. Paris, the shepherd boy, chooses Venus (Love) to grant the Apple of the Hesperides to rather than to Minerva or Juno (wisdom or power), which led to the Abduction of Helen, 'the most beautiful woman in the world' and so fomented the Trojan War. From the Trojan Horse and Priam's 'beware Greeks bearing gifts' to the slaying of Hector by 'fell Achilles' to Andromache, Hector's wife, sold into slavery; the battle and Fall of Troy and the escape of Aeneas to found Rome; these are all unforgettable stories of the heroes and the heartbroken, the women and the wanderers, said to have played a part in the Trojan War. Why have they inspired so many retellings, from Homer to Shakespeare and Hollywood? We come closer to these captivating characters as we explore through this exhibition the breath-taking art that brings them to life, from dramatic ancient sculptures and exquisite vase paintings to powerful contemporary works. You can also examine the fascinating archaeological evidence excavated famously by Calvert, Schliemann and others in the mid-late 19c, that proves there was a real Troy, in the far northwest of Anatolia – and offers tantalising hints at the truth behind the mythical stories.

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 lectures begin at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. We then visit the British Museum Exhibition and the event ends by 3:30 pm £95 members, £105 non-members.