

# IKON

## SYMPOSIUM: LEAR IN THE ROUND

MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2022 / 11AM-5.30PM

FREE, SUGGESTED DONATION £5

### ABOUT

This event takes place at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham and is available to watch via a live broadcast. To watch online, please subscribe to Ikon Gallery's [YouTube](#) channel.

Edward Lear (1812 – 1888) is known around the world as a prolific nonsense poet, especially as the author of *The Owl and The Pussy-Cat* and many other limericks and songs. However, his first love was drawing and painting and over a period of fifty years he travelled in Europe, the Middle East, India and beyond, producing thousands of pictures. Ikon's exhibition is the first solely devoted to Lear's sketches and landscape drawings from across the entire span of his career. It comprises 63 works - many exhibited for the first time.

This one day symposium draws on key themes from Ikon's exhibition, [Moment to Moment](#), and reads across Lear's oeuvre, highlighting connections between his diverse activities and achievements. A wide range of established and emerging experts on Lear will speak at the event, with ample time for questions and discussion.

Speakers include **Matthew Bevis** (Professor of English Literature, Oxford University), **Jasmine Jagger** (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Department of English and Creative Writing, University of Roehampton), **Sara Lodge** (Senior Lecturer in English, University of St Andrews), **Noreen Masud** (Lecturer in Twentieth Century Literature, University of Bristol), **Kate Nichols** (Birmingham Fellow in British Art, University of Birmingham), **Linzi Stauvers** (Head of Learning, Ikon Gallery), **Jenny Uglow** (Author of *Mr Lear: A Life of Art and Nonsense* (2018)), **Jonathan Watkins** (Director, Ikon Gallery), **Cassie Westwood** (Independent Scholar) and **James Williams** (Senior Lecturer in English Literature, University of York).

This event is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), The Finnis Scott Foundation and University of Oxford.

# SCHEDULE

- 11.00 – 11.10     **Welcome:** Jonathan Watkins and Linzi Stauvers
- 11.10 – 11.45     Matthew Bevis – *Edward Lear’s Moment*
- 11.45 – 1.15     **Session 1**  
Chair: Jonathan Watkins
- Jenny Uglow – *The Edge of the Sand: Liminal Lear*
- Kate Nichols – *Lear Ruins*
- Jasmine Jagger – *Moving Lines: Lear’s Tennysonian*
- 1.15 – 1.30     **Audience Q&A**
- 1.30 – 2.30     **Lunch**
- 2.30 – 3.30     **Session 2**  
Chair: Linzi Stauvers
- Cassie Westwood – *How Not to Know Mr Lear*
- Noreen Masud – *Lear’s Distracted Landscapes*
- 3.30 – 3.45     **Break**
- 3.45 – 4.45     **Session 3**  
Chair: Matthew Bevis
- Sara Lodge – *Edward Lear and Animation*
- James Williams – *Edward Lear in the Mountains*
- 4.45 – 5.15     **Audience Q&A**
- 5.15 – 5.30     **Closing session:** Matthew Bevis and Jonathan Watkins
- 5.30             **End**

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Matthew Bevis** is Professor of English Literature at Oxford University. His books include *The Art of Eloquence, Comedy: A Very Short Introduction* and *Wordsworth's Fun*. He is currently finishing a book – *Knowing Edward Lear* – which builds on a volume he co-edited with James Williams, *Edward Lear and the Play of Poetry*. The research has involved collaborations with the BBC, Harvard University, the Natural History Museum, and the Ashmolean Museum. More information – along with podcasts, online exhibitions, talks and other materials – can be [found here](#).

**Jasmine Jagger** is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Department of English and Creative Writing, University of Roehampton. Her research project, *Radical Rhymesters: The Female Comic Spirit in Victorian Verse*, explores overlooked senses of humour in nineteenth-century women poets. Her first book *Rhythms of Feeling in Edward Lear, T. S. Eliot, and Stevie Smith* was published earlier this year with Oxford University Press.

**Sara Lodge** is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of St Andrews, specialising in nineteenth-century literature and culture. Her book, *Inventing Edward Lear* (Harvard University Press, 2018), explores Lear's sound-world and the music he wrote, as well as his non-conformist religious views, his contributions to natural history and his self-elected membership of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Sara Lodge has appeared on BBC Radio 3 with a series of *The Essay* on Lear and recently anchored a documentary for RTE Lyric FM on Lear's Irish journeys.

**Noreen Masud** is a Lecturer in Twentieth Century Literature at the University of Bristol, working on aphorisms, flatness, puppets and nonsense. Her first book, *Hard Language*, is due out with OUP shortly; her trade book *A Flat Place* will be published by Hamish Hamilton and Melville House Press in Spring 2023.

**Kate Nichols** is an art historian of Britain and the British Empire, working primarily on the long nineteenth century. Since 2015 she has been Birmingham Fellow in British Art, in the Department of Art History, Curating and Visual Studies at the University of Birmingham. Her book, *Greece and Rome at the Crystal Palace: Classical Sculpture and Modern Britain* was published by Oxford University Press, and explored the various ways in which Greek and Roman visual culture (including ruins) was understood in nineteenth-century Britain. She is currently working on a book project provisionally titled *A Global History of Victorian Art*.

**Linzi Stauvers** is Head of Learning at Ikon and is responsible for offsite programmes, including [Slow Boat](#), [Art at HMP Grendon](#) and [The Migrant Festival](#). With a PhD in History of Art from UCL (2010), she has organised conferences for Ikon's exhibitions of work by Käthe Kollwitz, Thomas Bock and Carlo Crivelli. She is a Trustee of Pavilion where she worked between 2011–16, managing artist commissioning projects in heritage spaces.

**Jenny Uglow** is a former editorial director of Chatto & Windus and chair of the Royal Society of Literature. She is the author of biographies and cultural histories, from *The Lunar Men: The Friends Who Made the Future* to *In These Times: Living in Britain Through Napoleon's Wars, 1793–1815*. Her interest in text and image is explored in *Words and Pictures: Writers, Artists, and a Peculiarly British Tradition*; in biographies of William Hogarth, Thomas Bewick and Walter Crane; and in *Mr Lear: A Life of Art and Nonsense*, winner of the 2018 Hawthornden Prize. Uglow's latest book, *Sybil and Cyril: Cutting Through Time* is about the linocutters Sybil Andrews and Cyril Power.




**Cassie Westwood** is a writer and teacher living in Oxford. Her previous publications include essays on earworms and transitional objects (*Raritan*), nonsense and animals (*Essays in Criticism and The Edinburgh Companion to Nonsense*), and twentieth-century poetry (*The Cambridge Quarterly*). She is currently collaborating with the artist Lucy Beech on a film about waste, creativity and transition.

**Jonathan Watkins** is Director of Ikon, having led the gallery for over 20 years. He has curated international exhibitions including Biennales in Quebec (2019), Sharjah (2007) and Sydney (1998), and Triennials at Guangzhou (2012) and Tate (2003) as well as *Floating World, Bahrain* (2017) and *Facts of Life: Contemporary Japanese Art* (Hayward Gallery, 2001). In 2019, he won The Ampersand Foundation Award to realise the exhibition of his dreams (Carlo Crivelli, 2022).

**James Williams** is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of York. He is the author of *Edward Lear* (Tavistock, 2018) and co-editor, with Matthew Bevis, of *Edward Lear and the Play of Poetry* (Oxford, 2016) and, with Anna Barton, of *The Edinburgh Companion to Nonsense* (Edinburgh, 2021). He has published essays on topics including Victorian comic verse, parody and satire, and on writers from Alfred Tennyson and Charles Darwin to Samuel Beckett and Dorothy Parker.

#### Stay in touch

Subscribe to our e-bulletin at [ikon-gallery.org/subscribe](https://ikon-gallery.org/subscribe)

   [ikongallery](https://www.instagram.com/ikongallery)

Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2HS  
0121 248 0708 / [ikon-gallery.org](https://ikon-gallery.org)

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm  
Free entry, donations welcome

Ikon is supported using public funding by  
Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon  
Registered charity no. 528892

# IKON



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Birmingham**  
City Council