

TURNER & CONSTABLE

DIRECTED BY **DAVID BICKERSTAFF**

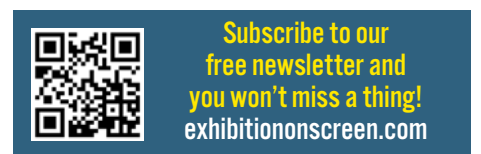
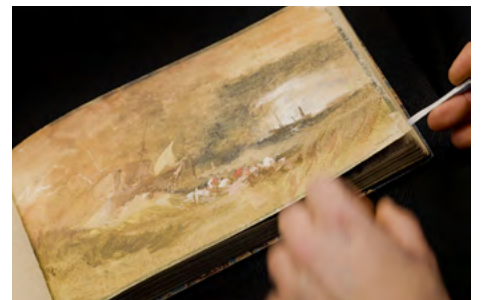
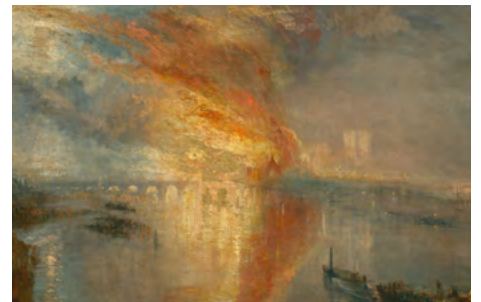
PRODUCED BY **AMANDA WILKIE** | MUSIC BY **ASA BENNETT**

As Executive Producer of Exhibition on Screen, I have always believed that the greatest exhibitions deserve to live far beyond the gallery walls. When we learned that Tate was bringing together J. M. W. Turner and John Constable in a landmark exhibition, we immediately recognised the significance of the moment. This was not simply another show; it was a rare and ambitious exploration of two towering figures of British art, shown side by side. Having filmed other major Tate exhibitions, we were determined to once again secure that access and create a film that could capture both the scale and the intimacy of this extraordinary event.

What makes this project so compelling is the opportunity it offers to look at Turner and Constable not only as individual geniuses, but in direct dialogue with one another. Too often they are treated as opposites – the visionary versus the naturalist, the radical versus the traditionalist – yet the truth is far more nuanced. By filming within the exhibition itself and speaking to leading curators and scholars, we were able to examine their rivalry, their mutual awareness, and the ways in which each pushed the other to greater ambition. The exhibition setting allowed us to trace these connections visually, pairing works in ways that illuminate their shared concerns with light, atmosphere, and the transforming power of landscape.

For us, this latest film (our 41st feature film in this series) represents exactly what Exhibition on Screen strives to do: open up major cultural moments to audiences everywhere and reveal afresh the biographies of major artists. Not everyone can stand in the galleries in London, but through cinema we can offer something uniquely powerful – the chance to see the brushwork up close, to understand the historical context, and to reflect on why Turner and Constable still matter today. Securing privileged access once again enabled us to tell this story with depth and authority, and to celebrate not just two remarkable artists, but the enduring relevance of their art when seen together, in conversation, and in competition.

Phil Grabsky



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