Lavish and intricate gold boxes of the eighteenth century are amongst the most beautiful objects ever made. These delicate and refined miniatures contained snuff – powdered tobacco. These boxes enjoy a unique status as objects of desire. Speakers including expert auctioneers, conservators, curators, goldsmiths, and scholars will celebrate their exquisite materials and subtle significance.

The day is made possible through the generosity of the Gilbert Trust for the Arts, London.

£10. booking essential. To book tel: 01223 332904 or email: education@fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Programme for the Day: * Please be aware this programme may be subject to change.

10.30 Registration and coffee

11.00 Welcome and introduction
Heike Zech, Senior Gilbert Curator, Victoria and Albert Museum

11.10 Buying and selling gold boxes
Vanessa Brett, Independent Scholar, Wiltshire

11.35 Swiss automata of the late 18th and early 19th centuries
Julia Clarke, Independent scholar and consultant to Sotheby’s, London

12.00 From London to St Petersburg: the career of the Swiss craftsman Jean-Pierre Ador
Roger Smith, Independent scholar, London
12.25 In a Rush: California’s Twentieth-Century Collectors of Gold Boxes
Rosie Mills, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Associate Curator, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

12.50 Discussion

13.00 Lunch provided

14.00 Attention to detail: Case studies
Chaired by Tessa Murdoch, Deputy Keeper, Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass

14.10 Diamonds and Coloured Gems: What Lies Beneath
Joanna Whalley
Gemmologist and Senior Metals Conservator
Victoria and Albert Museum

14.30 Micromosaics
Heike Zech,
Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Senior Curator,
Victoria and Albert Museum

14.50 Enamels
Sheila McDonald, Enameller and Jeweller, in conversation with
Méloïde Doumy, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Assistant Curator,
Victoria and Albert Museum

15.10 Chasing gold
Rod Kelly, Contemporary goldsmith, Norfolk

15.30 Discussion

15.45 Tea & Coffee

16.00 Study visit to Close-Up and Personal: eighteenth-century gold boxes from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection accompanied by the curators

16.45 Fitzwilliam Museum closes