**“The Ingenious Knight of La Mancha and his Cultural Legacy: Four Centuries of Creativity Inspired by Don Quixote”**

Don Quixote is one of the most famous characters in the history of Western literature. A would-be knight errant enamored of chivalric romances, he ventures into the world in quest for adventure only to become the butt of countless jokes on account of his delusions of grandeur. In his search for lost ideals, reality and fiction are interchangeable and indistinguishable, as epitomized by his fight with windmills and his infatuation with a common peasant girl whom he perceives as the noblest of ladies.

At the core of Cervantes’s satirical, tragi-comic, fiction is a deeply philosophical question: how much can we know the world or anything within it for that matter? Instead of an answer, he offers only a series of narrative situations, each one more preposterous than the other, as if to suggest that any hope of answering that question is an absurdist dream.

This series of lectures explores some of the most important aspects of the cultural legacy of this story – often called the first modern novel - which has inspired countless works by artists, writers, and musicians since its original publication more than four hundred years ago.

**Lecture 2:**

**Aneta Georgievska-Shine**

Though Cervantes’s novel did not seem to have a direct impact on the visual culture of Spain, its resonance for later artists is undeniable – from Honoré Daumier, to Dali and Picasso. Yet, as we shall see in this exploration of visual reflections upon this novel, the themes it addresses had a great currency among artists of Cervantes’s age, including, most famously, Diego Velázquez.

George Vertue, Portrait of Cervantes, 1738 ed. Don Quixote, London

John Law, a second Don Quixote, The Great Mirror of Folly, Amsterdam, 1720

Gustav Doré, Illustrations to Don Quixote, Paris, 1863

Honoré Daumier, Don Quixite and Sancho Pansa, 1860’s (various collections)

Adolphe Monticelli, Don Quixote and the Windmills, ca. 1880

Picasso, Don Quixote, 1955 (350th anniversary of the novel)

Salvador Dali, Illustrations for Don Quixote, Modern Library, 1946

Salvador Dali, Studies for Don Quixote, 1956

Velázquez, Aesop, ca. 138, The Prado

Velázquez, The Buffoon Don Cristobal de Castaneda (Barbarroya), 1637-40, The Prado

Velázquez, Don Juan de Calabazas, 1637-39, The Prado

Velázquez, Don Sebastian del Morra, ca. 1645, The Prado

Velázquez, Juan de Pareja, ca. 1650, The MET

Juan de Pareja, Calling of St.Matthew, ca. 1661, The Prado

Velázquez, Las Meninas, 1656-57, The Prado