

Date	Cultural Events	Political Events and Social Legislation
1837	The Royal Academy of Arts is moved to the east wing of the National Gallery building in Trafalgar Square.	Coronation of Queen Victoria. Amendment of the Vagrancy Act of 1824, which stipulated the trial of any person exhibiting obscene materials in public; now extended to included the display of materials in shop windows.
1838	Public opening of the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.	
1840		Marriage of Queen Victoria to the German Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.
1841	<p>Foundation of the Art Union of London. Subscribers paid one guinea and received a piece of Parian ware and the chance to win a print in a lottery.</p> <p>Sir Henry Fox Talbot invents the Calotype process of positive-negative photography.</p>	Robert Peel becomes Prime Minister.
1843	<p>Alfred Tennyson publishes his poem <i>Godiva</i>. The poem initiates a vogue for the subject in British painting.</p> <p>Exhibition at Westminster Hall of cartoons entered for the competition to paint frescoes in the New Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament).</p>	
1847	New British Museum building opened in Great Russell Street (current location)	
1848	Publication of the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (English translation 1850).	Year of revolutionary uprisings across Europe.
1850	Alfred Tennyson becomes Poet Laureate on the death of Wordsworth.	
1851	<p>The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations opened by Queen Victoria at the Crystal Palace, Hyde Park.</p> <p>Invention of the glass negative.</p>	
1854	The Crystal Palace is re-opened at Sydenham, where an exhibition of nude sculptures causes a furore; sculpted fig-leaves are hastily applied to cover the	Outbreak of Crimean War (continues until 1856)

	genitalia of the statues.	
1855	International Exhibition in Paris; William Mulready's <i>Bathers Surprised</i> and Joseph Noel Paton's <i>The Quarrel of Oberon and Titania</i> are among the exhibits.	Australian colonies become self-governing.
1857	'Pornography' officially enters English language usage. Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition; Oscar Rejlander's photograph, <i>The Two Ways of Life</i> is among the exhibits; Queen Victoria buys a print of it for Prince Albert. Opening of South Kensington Museum.	Obscene Publications Act passed by Lord Campbell; it is the first law to deal specifically with pictorial and literary pornography. Outbreak of the Indian 'Mutiny' or uprising against British Rule. Matrimonial Causes Act eases divorce proceedings.
1858	Ruskin destroys erotic drawings by J.M.W. Turner, bequeathed to the nation as part of the Turner Bequest.	British declare peace in India. Lord Palmerston becomes Prime Minister.
1859	Publication of Charles Darwin's <i>On the Origin of Species By Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life</i> .	Suez Canal begun.
1860	Guiseppe Fiorelli excavates Pompeii using plaster to preserve the shapes of the bodies discovered in volcanic ash.	
1861		Death of Prince Albert. American Civil War begins (1861-5).
1862	International Exhibition at South Kensington, London.; John Gibson's sculpture the <i>Tinted Venus</i> causes a stir and Ingres' <i>La Source</i> proves a revelation to English critics and painters.	
1866	Jean Leon Gerome's <i>Phryne Before the Tribunal</i> is seen in London at the French Gallery on Pall Mall.	
1867	The Dudley Gallery opens as an alternative exhibiting venue to the Royal Academy; Simeon Solomon is among the exhibitors. Frederic Leighton's <i>Venus Disrobing</i> causes a sensation at the RA,	

	<p>inaugurating a revival of the nude in Britain.</p> <p>International Exhibition in Paris.</p>	
1868		William Gladstone becomes Prime Minister.
1869	The first Royal Academy Summer exhibition is held in the new galleries at Burlington House, Piccadilly.	
1870	The exhibition at the Royal Academy of John Everett Millais's first and only experiment with the female nude, <i>The Knight Errant</i> , initiates a debate about the propriety of the nude model .	
1871	<p>The publication of Charles Darwin's <i>The Descent of Man and Selection in relation to Sex</i>.</p> <p>The Slade School of Art opens as an alternative to the Royal Academy Schools; Edward Poynter is made first Professor; study from the life model is emphasised and women are permitted to study from the partially-draped model in a separate class.</p>	
1874	Excavation of Venus Esquilina, Rome.	Benjamin Disraeli becomes Prime Minister.
1876		Customs Consolidation Act passed to legislate against the importation of obscene materials.
1877	The Chantrey Bequest is begun and Frederic Leighton's large bronze sculpture <i>An Athlete Wrestling with a Python</i> , exhibited at the RA, is the first purchase for the nation.	Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India at a ceremony in Delhi.
1878	<p>Alma Tadema's <i>A Sculptor's Model</i> causes controversy when exhibited in Liverpool, arousing the indignation of sections of the general public.</p> <p>Frederic Leighton is elected President of the Royal Academy.</p> <p>Ruskin accuses Whistler of flinging a pot of paint in the public's face'; Whistler sues Ruskin for libel and wins.</p>	
1879	Annie Swynnerton and Susan Isabel Dacre found the Manchester Society of Women Painters.	Zulu War in South Africa.

	Thomas Edison perfects electric light.	
1880		Outbreak of First Boer War; Gladstone re-elected Prime Minister.
1882		British invasion of Egypt.
1885	<p>W.T. Stead publishes <i>The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon</i>, his exposé of child prostitution in the Pall Mall Gazette.</p> <p>A letter signed 'A British Matron' is sent to <i>The Times</i> protesting against the nude and the threat it presented to public morals. A national debate on the nude ensues. JC Horsley, RA, is the suspected author.</p>	<p>Criminal Law Amendment Act: the age of sexual consent for girls is raised to 16 years; new penalties against incest and male homosexuality are implemented.</p> <p>National Vigilance Association is founded.</p>
1886	New English Art Club, a francophile alternative to the Royal Academy, is founded.	Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts of the 1860s.
1887	<p>Camera Club founded in London, primarily for gentleman amateurs.</p> <p>Invention of celluloid film.</p>	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
1889		Indecent Advertisements Act.
1890	Oscar Wilde's <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> is published.	
1891	Public outcry when Calderon's <i>St Elizabeth</i> is bought by the Chantrey Bequest.	
1892		Rudolf Blind, the Belgian-born painter is put on trial for exhibiting a picture alleged to be 'obscene' and 'wicked'; the judge, taking into consideration 'artistic expression', throws the case out of court .
1893	<p>World's Fair, Chicago: the renowned physical culturist, Eugen Sandow appears to wide acclaim.</p> <p>The Lumière brothers invent the Cinématograph.</p> <p>Women allowed to study from the partially-draped model at the RA</p>	
1894	The first 'Kinetoscope Parlour' opens in Oxford Street on 14 April.	
1895	Oscar Wilde is found guilty of 'acts of gross indecency with other male persons' and is sentenced to two years hard labour.	
1896	Projected film is first introduced in	

	<p>Britain; the Lumière Brother's Cinématograph and the British inventor Robert W. Paul's Theatrograph are showing at theatres in Leicester Square.</p> <p>Sir Edward Poynter elected President of the Royal Academy following the deaths of Leighton and Millais</p> <p>National Portrait Gallery opens in Trafalgar Square.</p>	
1897	The National Gallery of British Art opens at Millbank, London (later known as the Tate Gallery, now Tate Britain).	Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
1899		Outbreak of the Second Boer War.
1900	International Exhibition in Paris. William Goscombe John's bronze sculpture, <i>A Boy At Play</i> is among the exhibits.	
1901		Death of Queen Victoria at Osborne House, Isle of Wight.