

# SEMINAR 10

## WILLIAM POWELL FRITH: KEY CONCEPTS & IDEAS

- specialised in genre subjects (i.e. scenes of domestic and public life)
- started his career as a portrait painter
- was fascinated by human physiognomy
- upheld Victorian morality but also satirised it
- known for his aversion to modern-art developments
- lived a curious domestic life, flouting the values he publicly espoused

## VOCABULARY TO DESCRIBE FRITH AND HIS PAINTINGS

- painted panoramic narrative works of life
- a spur to the creation of one's own compositions
- created complex multi-figure compositions depicting the Victorian class system
- a panoramic view of Epsom Derby
- a definitive example of Victorian modern-life genre
- a large number of Londoners leaving town for the day to visit the races on Epsom Downs
- the table of a thimble-rigger
- to cheat sb out of their money
- a gaping shirt
- to gamble away one's pocketwatch, curb chain and shirt-studs
- a young country man in a smock
- to be based on photographic studies
- painting had to be protected by a specially installed rail
- to tell moral stories in the manner of William Hogarth
- to maintain a mistress a mile down the road
- a marked contrast to the upright family scenes
- large crowds held back by a railing
- *The Railway Station* being an experiment in the manner it was produced and marketed
- the commissioner of the painting taking a gamble on his profits
- an outstretched palm of a cabbie demanding money