

James studied at the Universities of St Andrews and Manchester. He is a former curator of paintings, drawings and prints and co-ordinator of various exhibitions and galleries at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, as well as being a lecturer and ships' historian on board cruise ships. His publications include illustrated histories of *Marine Painting* (1995) and yachting art, *Yachts on Canvas* (1998), *The Voyage of the Beagle: Darwin's extraordinary adventure aboard FitzRoy's famous survey ship* (2008), *Careless Talk Costs Lives: Fougasse and the Art of Public Information* (2010) and *Your Country Needs You: the Secret History of the Propaganda Poster* (2013). James completed his PhD at the University of Sussex in 2015 on the voyager artist William Westall (1781-1850), who sailed with Commander Matthew Flinders aboard HMS 'Investigator' (1801-1803), the first ship to circumnavigate Australia. In addition to lecturing, James conducts guided tours for groups of the buildings and artworks of the National Maritime Museum and was curator of *Dazzle: Disguise and Disruption in War and Art* at St Barbe Museum & Art Gallery in Lymington, Hampshire.