

STUDY DAYS 2022-2023

Thursday 27th October 2022

Painting Down Under – A Hundred years of Australian painting 1888-1988 *With Paul Chapman*

Paul Chapman is an art historian, a published author and a National Gallery trained guide with many years' experience of working in education. Paul has also given talks and tours for art associations/societies in museums and galleries in the UK and Europe. Paul will cover Australian painting between 1888 and 1988, a period in which the country transformed itself from a British penal colony into an Independent Asian-Pacific nation. We will examine the works of five artists illustrating the development of Australian painting over that period. Session 1 will look at the Heidelberg School (Australian Impressionists) with a focus on the work of Tom Roberts who created a series of paintings known as the 'National Narratives'. Session 2 will highlight two artists, Grace Cossington Smith (a post-impressionist associated with the 'Sydney Moderns') and Sidney Nolan (arguably Australia's best-known artist). Nolan had a unique style which blended modern expressionism with naïve folk-art style. The final session will consider two more artists - John Brack who came to prominence in the 1950s with colourful works of post-war Melbourne with insights into the complexities of urban and suburban society, and Brett Whitely, Australia's 'Rock Star' painter. Whitely created paintings with a sensuous line and deep saturated colours. His landscapes contain a languid beauty while his self-portraits show a brutal honesty of self-expression.

Thursday 16th February 2023

The Silk Road *With Chris Aslan*

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Chris back to Tunbridge Wells with three lectures giving us further insights into the textiles and cultural lives of the people of central Asia. Chris was born in Turkey and spent his childhood in war-torn Beirut before studying Media and Journalism at Leicester University. After university, Chris lived in Khiva, Uzbekistan, establishing a UNESCO workshop reviving 15th century carpet designs and embroideries, and becoming the largest non-government employer in town before he was kicked out in an anti-western purge. We will explore how wool, cotton and silk impacted on the history, economy, geography, politics and, of course, fashions of Central Asia and the wider world. Chris will explain the belief in the Evil Eye and the use of emblems in textile design, jewellery and even architecture to protect those fearful of its power. This belief is still widespread across the Muslim world and is particularly prevalent amongst women. Whether adorning a person, a cradle, a house or a yurt, textiles and jewellery have been shaped by a desire to provide spiritual protection. This promises to be a fascinating day learning about the lives of these people of Central Asia.

ABOUT US

Meetings

Unless otherwise stated, our lectures are held on the third Monday of the month from September to June (excluding December) at 11am at Trinity Theatre, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1JP.

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THE ARTS
SOCIETY

PROGRAMME 2022/23

ROYAL
TUNBRIDGE WELLS



warm welcome to the Arts Society Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The Arts Society is for anyone with an interest in the arts and new members are always welcome. We provide a programme of lectures and Study Days throughout the year given by experts in their field who share their knowledge and expertise in a way that we hope members will find both stimulating and entertaining. We also arrange visits from time to time to places of historic or artistic interest.

Our Society is a member of The Arts Society, our national body, and through this, members are entitled to attend events organised at national and area level and to receive the Arts Society magazine which is published three times a year.

We aim to support local arts-based activities. Last year we provided support to a new project set up by the team at Trinity Theatre who are working in collaboration with Age Exchange to support 30 older people experiencing isolation and loneliness at home as a result of the pandemic and their physical/mental health conditions, creating theatre, dance and music inspired by their own reminiscence. Our donation helped with the training of more volunteers and will contribute towards the running costs.

We also supported Magic Lantern to provide a series of interactive workshops for Year 4 pupils at Speldhurst primary school. These workshops help pupils to think creatively and critically whilst stimulating a lifelong enjoyment of the arts.

Our lectures are held at Trinity Theatre, a converted church, now a listed building, designed by the renowned architect Decimus Burton.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023

Lectures commence at 11am. Please be seated by 10.50 am. The coffee shop is open from 10am. New members are invited to join the Hospitality Secretary in the foyer for coffee at the New Members' Coffee Table after each lecture for 12 months after joining.

We welcome visitors to our lectures for which there is a charge of £5 per lecture. A £5 visitor fee will be deducted from the membership fee for visitors who subsequently join our society. All members and visitors must register before going into the theatre.

2022

September 19th

A load of old balls
"The invention of the ball ranks as highly as the invention of the wheel"
Simon Inglis BA

October 10th

The Bayeux Tapestry: what can be learned from this depiction of a turning point in our history?
Imogen Corrigan BA MPhil

November 21st

Please note the AGM will take place at 10.30 immediately before the lecture
Emperor Qianlong: son of heaven and man of the world
David Rosier

December 19th

A bonus lecture for Christmas only accessible on Zoom
The magical music of Christmas: sacred and secular music both old and new
Nigel Bates

2023

January 16th

Dante's Divine Comedy: other world images from his poems
Patsy Erskine-Hill MA

February 20th

Painted Pleats – a history of European fan painting
Jacob Moss

March 20th

Degas, Monet and Baudelaire: Paris, the city of modernity
Daphne Lawson MA

April 17th

Natalia Goncharova: an early leader in the Russian avant-garde
Jane Angelini MA

May 15th

Castles: the unquenchable thirst of William Randolph Hearst
Mark Meredith

June 19th

"The Dancing Faun": a personal story of a masterpiece
Bertie Pearce BA

If a lecture cannot take place live, it will be delivered by Zoom

