

THE ARTS SOCIETY HELMSLEY

6 JANUARY 2020:

A brief story of wine- going back 7,000 years

Wine has been part of our global society for over 7,000 years: the lecture tells of its origin and appearance in all societies across the Mediterranean and through Europe and shows how it became an important component of faith, well-being and festivity. Drawings, paintings, engravings, pottery and wine-labels themselves all contribute to the story.

David Wright has been a wine retailer, importer and distributor for 30 years.

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Lectures are held in the Helmsley Arts Centre auditorium at 7.30 pm

Annual membership costs £50 for nine lectures.

Visitors are welcome and are asked to make a suggested donation of £10.

For more information please contact Felicity Hurst on 01653 628912 or felicity93@gmail.com

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3 FEBRUARY 2020:

Augustus and Gwen John: The lives and works of two contrasting siblings.

Augustus John and his sister, Gwen, could not have been more different: he epitomised the Chelsea artist, with a prodigious and flamboyant talent; the bohemian womaniser who had many relationships and fathered many children. Gwen is usually depicted as the shy, retiring recluse, living with her cats in a garret in Paris and painting small, intimate and 'feminine' pictures. This lecture seeks to investigate these myths and discusses the possible truth of Augustus's statement that 'Fifty years from now I shall be known as the brother of Gwen John'.

Sandra Pollard, M.A. in Art History, has lectured for over 35 years and was a Trustee of The Bowes Museum

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2 March 2020

St. Cecilia's Halo: Music, Sex and Death in Victorian Art

This lecture shows how the Pre-Raphaelites took a traditional subject – St. Cecilia – and subverted it. Painting music helped to trigger a broader shift in Victorian art from narrative paintings towards Aestheticism and its focus on abstract beauty, ambiguity, androgyny and sensuality.

Suzanne Fagence Cooper studied History at Oxford University and Art History at the Courtauld Institute and at Christie's Education. She is now a Visiting Fellow at the University of York and Research Curator at York Art Gallery.

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6 April 2020

From Desktop to Bureau – Writing Furniture from C16 to C18

While studying for his first degree, Janusz worked part time in an antiques shop which he came to take over as proprietor. Such was his interest in collecting that he became known as the dealer who bought but seldom sold.

His lectures seek to explain furniture in terms of the skills and materials employed in its design and construction and also its socio-economic significance. He has lectured on antique furniture since 1975.

Janusz Karczewski-Slowikowski gave a lecture in Helmsley on Thomas Chippendale in 1998 and another on Robert Adam in 2004: a return visit is long overdue.

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11 May 2020

Art of 1935

The Art of 1935 explores that year's many aspects of decorative and fine art, demonstrating how these forms reflected the period in a fitting and cohesive manner. The lecture examines the range of contemporaneous art forms, including the work of Cecil Beaton, magazine, poster and Penguin paperback book design, architecture, Silver Jubilee memorabilia, commemorative stamps, locomotive design and fashion and includes a study of works by the Polish-born artist Tamara de Lempicka.

Pamela Campbell-Johnson, M.A. Hons Art History, St. Andrews, specialises in British Domestic Architecture and Modern British Art.

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1 June 2020

A Day in the Life of a Paper Conservator.

This lecture uses examples of works of art by famous artists such as Millais, Turner and lesser-known artists to illustrate how a paper conservator carries out treatments to prepare works of art on paper for display privately and in public collections.

Katherine Lockett is a Paper Conservator working in private practice. After working at the Tate Gallery and Courtauld in London, she now works in her studio in Yorkshire.

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6 July 2020

Double Dutch: The Secret Life of Dutch Still Life Paintings.

This lecture explores the symbolic language of Dutch Still Life Paintings. Merchants of the Dutch Golden Age filled their houses with paintings but rejected biblical subjects and Baroque melodrama. Favourite themes were found closer to home: banketje (banquets) and ontbijtjes (breakfasts) celebrate an abundance of both local and imported foodstuffs. Could they warn of the dangers of gluttony and the pleasures of the flesh? if we look closely the pocket-watch, fading bloom or human skull might hint at consciences troubled by such ostentation. Life is fragile and worldly beauty fleeting.

Lynne Gibson has worked as a professional artist specializing in oil painting and etching.

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5 October 2020

The Healing Power of Plants

Mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight. Timothy Walker was director of the Oxford University Botanic Garden from 1988 to 2014. Since then he has been a college lecturer and tutor at Somerville College Oxford. Gardens are often thought of as a place where science and art meet on equal terms. His lectures investigate this relationship.

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2 November 2020

The Bayeux Tapestry

After nearly 20 years in the British army, Imogen Corrigan studied Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History and Art.

There is far more to be discovered about the Bayeux Tapestry. Who made it? Where? Why? What information can it offer us? Not just a narrative of the most famous battle in English history, but of the build-up to it. A moral story showing that good cannot come to oath breakers. Astory of kings, chivalry and ambition. Many crucial events are omitted -why? The lecture looks at many of the scenes in detail and explores what might be learned from this depiction of a turning point in our history.

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The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.15 p.m.

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