



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
SOUTH WEST
LONDON

NEWSLETTER 2022



The Arts Society South West London (reg. charity no. 1195700) is a member society of The Arts Society

President: Lady White

Capodimonte

Dear Members

Sadly, as last year, the effect of Covid-19 has dominated our Society's activities. However, we have been able to deliver a full programme of lectures on Zoom with recordings available for two weeks. From October we started hybrid lectures with a reduced live audience plus Zoom. Although the numbers joining the Zoom lectures tended to be lower than the average attendance in the hall, they have been greatly enjoyed by those who have logged on.

Highlights of the lecture programme were the talks on Turner and Constable, and on the role of the conductor in orchestral performance. The lecture on Suzanne Valadon and Luisa Casati that was scheduled for September was postponed to January 2022 and was replaced by a lecture on Fabergé to tie in with the exhibition at the V&A that opened in November.

Again Lael and Ruth have done a great job in making all the arrangements to make the Zoom lectures run smoothly. Lecturers have also been very helpful in assisting us with the technology and agreeing to make recordings available.

The major casualty has been the visits programme. We had hoped to be able to rearrange the Away Day visit to Dorney Court and Dorneywood but the venues were still unable to accept tour groups. A visit to Turner's House in Twickenham was able to go ahead in October and proved so popular that three sessions were fully booked.



In September, a very successful Away Tour of Derbyshire took place, postponed from the original May dates. The highlights were visits to Wentworth Woodhouse, Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

Our financial position is healthy and there have been savings in expenditure on hall fees and lecturers' expenses, and sadly our summer party of course.

Our Society is embarking on a new future as a Charity following approval by members at a Special General Meeting in July. This will improve our ability to support the Arts locally and in particular to give support to young people through school and college activities. This year we have donated money for arts equipment to Wandsworth Prison for their excellent programme of art projects for the prisoners.

The 2022 programme

Both the format of lectures and the venue for live lectures are being reviewed. We are expecting to hold 'hybrid' lectures with a live audience and availability by Zoom, initially in Werter Road Community Church. This Newsletter includes the details of all planned lectures. Lael and Ruth have put together an excellent programme that includes lectures on Salvador Dali, Welsh gardens, Montenegrin photography and art of the Atlas mountains in Morocco.

It is planned to revive the Away Day to Dorney Court and Dorneywood as soon as the venues are able to accept bookings. An additional Away Day in the format of a Study Day has been arranged

for June next year at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge and the programme looks very exciting. The Away Tour to Naples that had to be cancelled last year has been rearranged for May 2022.

The 2022 visits programme includes the visits that did not take place in 2021, but this is a provisional programme and dates have not been confirmed. Venues are understandably cautious about taking bookings far in advance. Brief details are included in this newsletter and we will keep members informed via email and the website.



The Committee

This has been our last year as Chairs, having extended the term of office by one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Gwen will stay on the Committee as Vice-Chair. Kate is standing down after 12 years on the Committee having been Treasurer, joint Visits Secretary and Co-Chair. We are both enormously grateful for the great support that we have received from all members of the Committee, especially in the last two difficult years. Gill Grunwald will take over as Chair, and she will be replaced as Secretary by Felicity Irlam. Jenny Edwards has joined the Committee to work with Jane Seaborn on Young Arts and Heritage volunteering. Winefride Bolton is taking over from Caroline Delius as Membership Secretary.

Dinah Shoults stepped in on a temporary basis as visits organiser and Jane Crang will become the new Visits Secretary to take forward visits in 2022 as soon as venues become available. Gillian Ennis is continuing to keep our website up to date, but we are looking for someone to work with Gillian on Publicity. This is important because we have lost members over the last two years and for the first time we have no waiting list.

Gwen Hewitt *Kate McMahon*

Gwen Hewitt and Kate McMahon Co-Chairs

SUBSCRIPTIONS & MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions for 2022 are £45 single and £80 for joint membership.

If you pay by Standing Order, please ensure that you are paying the correct amount.

If you pay by cheque, please write one immediately, dated **1 December 2021**, and send it to the Treasurer, Kate Kirkland, 16 Westpoint, 49 Putney Hill, London SW15 6RU. Tel: 020 8788 0559.

Only one reminder will be sent.

Remember that the Arts Society South West London will benefit if you are able to make this payment into a **Gift Aid payment**. Please ask our Treasurer for the Gift Aid Form.

We welcome new members and for membership enquiries please email theartsocietyswlondon@gmail.com

NB: INSURANCE DISCLAIMER

The Arts Society South West London cannot be held responsible for any personal accident, loss, damage or theft of members' personal property.

Members are covered against proven liability to third parties.

LECTURES

Venue: Werter Road Community Church or by Zoom (to be confirmed).
Monday evenings at 8pm.

10 JANUARY (by Zoom)

TWO WOMEN WHO SCANDALISED THE ART WORLD: SUZANNE VALADON AND "THE DIVINE MARCHESA" LUISA CASATI

Lecturer: Julian Halsby

Suzanne Valadon was brought up in poverty in Paris where she became a painter and a model for Toulouse-Lautrec. Her private life was scandalous, with marital crises well known in Montmartre. Her son Maurice Utrillo was an alcoholic. Luisa Casati was born into great wealth but lived a scandalous life of extravagance and showmanship feted by many leading artists, including Augustus John, Cecil Beaton, and Man Ray. She threw



outrageous parties in her Venetian palace (now the Peggy Guggenheim Museum) and died in poverty in Kensington in 1957.



Julian Halsby is an art historian, critic, lecturer and painter. He studied History of Art at Cambridge University and later taught at a London art college where he became Senior Lecturer and Head of Department. He has written seven

books and innumerable articles. Julian is a member of the International Association of Art Critics and The Critics Circle and an elected member of the Royal Society of British Artists.

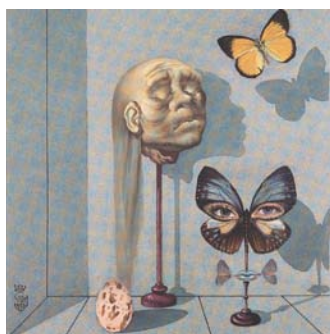
14 FEBRUARY

DALI: A RENAISSANCE ARTIST IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Lecturer: Julia Musgrave



Salvador Dalí did not restrict his creative output to painting but was also a writer, poet, engraver, sculptor, architect, theatre designer, and jewellery designer. Dalí selected the materials to be used, focusing not just on the colours or the value of the material, but also on their symbolic meanings. Jewels such as 'El cor reial' (1953, The Royal Heart) have become iconic works and are considered to be as exceptional as his paintings. This lecture explores the work of Dalí the designer and science enthusiast – a Renaissance artist in the 20th century.



Julia Musgrave has a Graduate Diploma in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art and an MLitt from the University of Glasgow. She is currently researching the involvement of Roger Fry and the Bloomsbury Group in the development of the Contemporary Art Society from 1910 to 1937. She teaches Art History at the City Literary Institute (City Lit) and is Co-Director of The London Art Salon and a Fellow of the RSA.

14 MARCH

THE STORY OF TWO ICONIC WELSH GARDENS: MIDDLETON HALL (NOW NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES) AND ABERGLASNEY



Lecturer: William Wilkins

The late Elizabethan garden at Aberglasney is the only surviving cloister garden in the UK and it was discovered and saved, at the 11th hour, with the help of an American benefactor. The lecture also reveals the discovery and restoration of a supposedly vanished park around the vestiges of a great house at Middleton, and recounts how it became the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the setting of the largest single span glasshouse in the world, designed by Norman Foster.

William Wilkins divides his life between Wales, London and Venice. He went to the Royal College of Art, did some teaching, and worked in the Architect's Department of the GLC before successfully exhibiting in New York and elsewhere. He combined his love of architecture and landscape architecture to set up The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the Aberglasney Restoration Trust as well as numerous other cultural and heritage projects.

9 MAY

"A COURAGEOUS AND SKILLED SHOT": MONTENEGRO'S PHOTOGRAPHER PRINCESS, KSENIA PETROVIC-NJEGOS (1881-1960)

Lecturer: Elizabeth Gowing



The eighth daughter of King Nikola of Montenegro – Ksenia – rejected marriage and chose to carve out a place for herself as secretary and valued advisor to her father, becoming the first woman in Montenegro to drive, and developing a

particular talent for photography. This lecture shares the photographs Princess Ksenia took during her years in the new Montenegrin capital of Cetinje, before her exile to France in 1916. Through a human narrative, the beautiful country and fascinating history of Montenegro is brought to life.

Elizabeth Gowing divides her time between the UK and the Balkans. In Kosovo she co-founded The Ideas Partnership charity which empowers and supports people in need in Kosovo, and the cultural heritage sector. She is the author of four Balkan travel books, and of the Fodor's guide to Montenegro. She is on the advisory board of GuideKS, the NGO for Kosovan tour guides, and of Faktoje, the Albanian fact-checking NGO.

13 JUNE

ARISTOCRATIC ST JAMES'S

Lecturer: Sue Jackson

St James's was where the beau monde came for the Season – to meet their lawyers, tailors, for the marriage market; to attend Parliament and host soirées, and to indulge themselves in gambling and other heady pursuits. This was the stamping ground of Prinny, Lady Georgiana Spencer, Beau Brummel, Lord Byron and Charles James Fox. We see Lord Byron, so afraid



of becoming fat, weighing himself thrice daily on Berry Bros' scales, Fox signing political documents with one hand, whilst holding gambling cards in the other.

Originally working for Phaidon and Yale University Presses, Sue is also a Fellow of the Huguenot Society, a Freeman of the City of London, a tutor at City Lit and a Blue Badge guide, conducting a variety of walks and visits in London and major sites in England. She runs an annual course at the National Gallery and is a co-author of the book 'London Walks: London Visits'.



11 JULY

THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD: 6,000 ENGLISHMEN IN FRANCE FOR 18 DAYS - HOW DID THEY DO IT?

Lecturer: Jo Mabbutt



In June 1520 Henry VIII and Francis I meet to ratify an Anglo-French alliance and celebrate the betrothal of Henry's daughter Mary to the Dauphin. Each brings an entourage of 6,000 to a field south of Calais for 18 days of events and entertainments staged to display the skill and splendour of each King and country. The logistics of transporting,



accommodating, and entertaining the English contingent for this spectacular event are staggering and the adornment of the entire Field and everyone present is equally fascinating.

Jo Mabbutt hand-gilds antique lace and sells her work through galleries and exhibitions. She divides her time as a designer/maker, lecturer and tutor running workshops for specialist groups. A Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers and Freeman of the City of London, Jo serves in a number of cross-Livery organisations and was awarded Honorary Membership of City & Guilds for services to education and training in 2020.

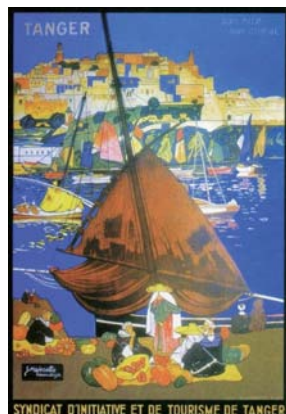
12 SEPTEMBER

A SYMPHONY IN BLUE - THE ARTIST, THE COUTURIER AND ATLAS THE MOST FABULOUS MOUNTAINE OF ALL AFRICKE

Lecturer: Caroline Holmes

Pliny the Elder described the Atlas Mountains 1900 years before a French cabinetmaker's son Jacques Majorelle arrived in Morocco, his artistic output started with posters to entice French tourists. Extensive travel in the Atlas Mountains inspired glorious blue dominated canvases and a garden in Marrakech. His blue horticultural testament was saved by Yves St Laurent who tailored the garden with pattern and panache. A foundation for its survival and public entry was created by Yves St Laurent thus *bleu majorelle* is now prêt-a-porter.

Caroline Holmes is a Garden Historian, author of 12 books, which have been recipient of or nominated for several awards. She is a Course Director for the University of Cambridge ICE, and international guest speaker and lecturer on tours and cruises including the Jacques Majorelle Gardens.



10 OCTOBER

STONE ON STONE: THE MEN WHO BUILT THE CATHEDRALS

Lecturer: Imogen Corrigan



This is not a lecture about architecture, but about the people who created our vast cathedrals and churches using tools that seem primitive to us. How did the Master Masons overcome those challenges? Through surviving records, we see that they were very much real people who were sometimes in trouble with the law, who reneged on contracts and who might start a job but not finish it. Nonetheless, they persevered so that today we are able to look on their achievements with wonder.

Imogen Corrigan spent nearly twenty years in the army before going to the University of Kent to study Anglo-Saxon and Medieval History, graduating with 1st class honours and subsequently gained an MPhil from the University of Birmingham. She published her first book in 2019 ('Stone on Stone: the men who built the cathedrals'), and works as a freelance lecturer across Britain and Europe.



14 NOVEMBER

THE FOUNDATIONS OF FASHION - THE HISTORY OF UNDERWEAR FROM THE 18TH CENTURY TO THE 20TH CENTURY

Lecturer: Kate Strasdin



Christian Dior said "Without foundations there can be no fashion." This lecture looks at how those foundations have evolved to create the silhouettes that shaped generations of men and women. It is a story of cutting edge

technologies, and looks at men and women alike from the girdle to the Y-front, the chemise to the stocking. In an era where we rely less on foundation garments and more on diet, it is easy to forget how central these garments were to everyday life.

Kate Strasdin is a curator and writer in the field of historic dress and textiles. She is a senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies at Falmouth University and a Specialist Visiting Lecturer at the DeTao Masters Academy in Shanghai. Kate's first book, 'Inside the Royal Wardrobe - A Dress History of Queen Alexandra' was published by Bloomsbury in 2017 and her second book about a 19th century dress diary will be published next year.

12 DECEMBER

A BRIEF STORY OF WINE

Lecturer: David Wright

Wine has been part of our global society for over 7,000 years, and the story tells of its origin and appearance in all societies across the Mediterranean and through Europe. Wine became an important component of faith, well-being, and festivity. From the kvevris of Georgia in 5,000 BC, the symposia in ancient Greece, the thermopolia of Pompeii, the hospices of Europe, to the dining tables of fine society wine has been ever present.

David Wright has been a wine retailer, importer and distributor for 30 years. For 10 years, from 1983 he ran an independent Wine Merchant called David Alexander Wine Merchants, which was runner up in the Decanter Magazine/Pol Roger Champagne Merchant of the Year in 1987. From 1993 he worked at Walter Siegel and then in 2016 he joined Delibo Wine Agencies. Over the years, he has publicly presented tastings and talks on wine to trade and private audiences.



VISITS

A charge is made and prior booking is required.

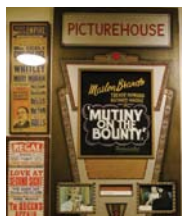
At present it is not possible to make firm dates but it is hoped that the following visits will take place. We will keep members updated via the website and by email.

MUSEUM OF BRANDS, NOTTING HILL

Examine how brands shape our world. Shoppers regularly opt for favourite brands and indeed recognisable packaging; branding is an important feature when launching a new product. The world's largest collection of consumer products charts the history of consumer culture from Victorian times to the current times.



CINEMA MUSEUM, KENNINGTON



This charming museum, founded by two cinema enthusiasts in 1986, is devoted to keeping alive the spirit of cinema from the days before the multiplex. It houses a unique collection of artefacts, memorabilia and

equipment that preserves the history and spirit of cinema from the 1890s to the present day. These include valuable posters and parts of cinema interiors. The museum is housed in a building which was once a workhouse where Charlie Chaplin lived as a child.

MANSION HOUSE



This Grade I listed building is home to a magnificent plate collection and an art collection including sculptures and the 84 Dutch paintings of the Harold Samuel Art Collection.

LIGHTBOX GALLERY, WOKING

This prizewinning gallery, where we will have a guided tour, houses one of the largest publicly accessible collections of Modern British Art. Its main focus is on the art movement which developed in the early and middle years of the 20th century, art which responded to the influence of two world wars and challenged the usual preconceptions of art. The sculpture collection is important, featuring work by artists such as Elizabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein and Eduardo Paolozzi. There is also a growing number of works by young and emerging artists.



JULY 2022 (DATE TBC)

All day coach trip from Dryburgh Hall

DORNEY COURT & DORNEYWOOD

Dorney Court is a Tudor mansion house dating from around 1440, with some Victorian reconstruction. The oldest part of the house includes fine examples of panelling and antique furniture. The great hall contains linenfold panelling from Faversham Abbey.



Dorneywood was originally a Georgian farmhouse with Victorian additions, remodelled in 1919 by Sir Robert Lorimer, and is now a country home for a senior member of the Government.

COACH TRIP & STUDY DAY

All day coach trip. Prior booking is required and a charge is made.

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022

KETTLE'S YARD, CAMBRIDGE



Lecturer: Sarah Burles

Kettle's Yard is the University of Cambridge's modern and contemporary art gallery. Set in a beautiful house, in a quiet corner of Cambridge, Kettle's Yard has been newly refurbished to better host its remarkable collection of modern art and contemporary art exhibitions. The collection was built up by the previous owners, Jim and Helen Ede, and includes paintings by Ben and Winifred Nicholson, Alfred Wallis,

Christopher Wood, David Jones and Joan Miró, as well as sculptures by Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Constantin Brancusi, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. The visit will include two lectures on the house and its contents and tours of the house and the current exhibition.

Sarah Burles studied History of Art at Cambridge University, before completing a masters degree at the University of London. She has worked in museums and galleries for over 25 years, including at the Fitzwilliam Museum for 12 years. Sarah also works as a Tour Director for Ace Cultural Tours and is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society.



STUDY AFTERNOON

Venue: St Mary's Church, Putney. Prior booking is required and a charge is made.

THURSDAY 5 MAY 2.00 PM-4.30 PM

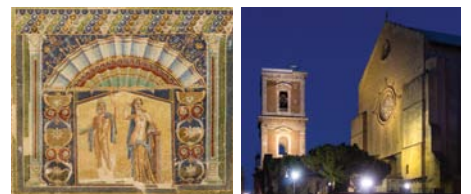
THE HISTORY AND ART OF NAPLES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Lecturer: Dr Paul Roberts

Our Away Tour for May 2022 is the tour of Naples and its surroundings postponed from 2020. Booking has closed for the tour, but all members are welcome to attend this study afternoon that ties in with the Naples trip.

The centre of Naples has Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque piazzas, palaces, Museums and Galleries, including the Archaeological and the Capodimonte; narrow streets of traditional shops, restaurants, bars; and beautiful churches including Santa Chiara with its maiolica cloister, and the Chapel of Sansevero with breath-taking sculptures.

The surrounding area includes Herculaneum, smaller than Pompeii but more intimate and atmospheric;



the villa of Nero's second wife Poppaea at Oplontis with beautifully decorated rooms and an Olympic swimming pool; and Giardini La Mortella on Ischia.

There will be two lectures with a break for tea.

Dr Paul Roberts is the Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford University and was Senior Roman Curator in the Greek and Roman Department at the British Museum. He studied at the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield and Oxford, researched in Italy and excavated widely in the Mediterranean. His research focuses on Roman daily life and art.