



## *Radlett Art Society*

Dear Member

The combined Membership and Programme Card that arrived recently is a timely reminder of the value we get from our Society subscription and of the hard work of our Committee. Perhaps also a timely reminder to pay your subscription if not already done! The format of lectures on Zoom in the winter and at the Reform Synagogue in the summer was a success last year and will be continued. Our existing programme of lectures this year, for the first time, includes the subject of photography.



Your Committee is actively considering how we might introduce art photography further into our activities. It is not only an important subject in its own right, but perhaps of particular interest to younger members and prospective members.

The Annual Exhibition on the weekend of the 9th June is at the Village Institute. The Radlett Museum is adjacent and will have a display on the history of art in Radlett at the same time. This will include our scrapbook with items extending over approximately 60 years. It is also hoped to offer refreshment in the garden and so is an occasion that should not be missed!

I have no news about formal visits and a holiday programme but your Committee continues to explore the possibility of visits in partnership with a commercial organisation. We remain unable to attract a volunteer to take the lead in this part of our programme so I am afraid that it will continue to be limited. Meanwhile, members will be aware of the visit on 8th October to the Colour Revolution Exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and we are grateful to Angela Sobell for arranging this.

Finally, the Thursday workshop remains popular. If you have yet to pay us a visit on a Thursday afternoon at the Village Institute please do so. We have a portrait model coming on the 23rd February so members interested in practical portraiture will be particularly welcome.

**Zoom in on Our AGM on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Minutes of the 2022 AGM, 2023 Agenda and Forms are on our website**

Adam Lewis  
Chairman

## **FUTURE LECTURES**

**Thursdav – Februarv 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7.45 for 8pm – via Zoom Meeting**

**CEZANNE EXHIBITION** Lecturer: **VAL WOODGATE** Her talk will be on the new Cezanne Exhibition taking place 6th October--12th March 2023 at the **Tate Modern**. The exhibition and lecture will cover the career-spanning survey of this pivotal iconic figure of modern art, consistently popular and influential with the public and art world.

## **ART DEMONSTRATION**

**Thursday – March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7.30 – 9.30pm**

**The use of pastels by the lovely Ruby Lewis.**

Ruby is a bubbly, talented artist who paints in all mediums: this demonstration will be restricted to pastel painting. Ruby did live demonstrations and encouraged a group of RAS artists to have a go at a Sunday study day last year. This was both fun and illuminating for all that attended. So now we might have another go!.



**Thursday – April 20<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8.0 pm at the Radlett Reform Synagogue 118 Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7AA. Zoom transmission also available.**



**Johnathan Bergwerk**, a new speaker to the RAS, will talk on **The Psychology Behind the Art of Marc Chagall**. Chagall lived in interesting and changeable times, born in 1887 near Vitebsk, at this period part of the Russian Empire. In a style that crosses many genres. His art is heavily influenced by the period he lived in, dreams, his deep love for his wife, family and way of life.

**Marc Chagall the Dance and the Circus 1950** He is considered the most famous Jewish artist of the 20th century who created his own unique style of modern art in many different mediums style including oils & stained glass windows). His art is based on Jewish Eastern European folk culture and is a visual extravaganza. To get to know Chagall from a psychological perspective will add a new dimension to the understanding of his long and varied art oeuvre.

## **Radlett Art Society – Holiday 25th August – 1st September 2023**

There are a few places left on our **“Rambles with a Sketch Book”** in Shropshire. Several of us have booked our places and looking forward to a pleasant week of uninterrupted sketching and painting. Partners are most welcome. They might like to paint too, walk or just lap up the beautiful environment. Full details are at :- <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/holidays-and-tours/7-night-rambles-with-a-sketchbook-holiday-in-the-shropshire-hills> If you would like to join us, please contact **HF Holidays** on 020 3974 8865 and let us know when you have booked.

**Thursday – May 11<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8.0 pm at the Radlett Reform Synagogue 118 Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7AA Zoom transmission also available**



**Speaker : Simone Bloom is talking on Wham! – The Arrival of Pop Art.** We have another treat with the return of Simone Bloom a fellow RAS member, artist, architect and lecturer. Simone will be talking about Pop, Art. The title is: **Wham! —The Arrival of Pop Art** .

In 1957 British pop artist [Richard Hamilton](#) listed the ‘ characteristics of pop art ’ in a letter to his friends the architects Peter and Alison Smithson : Pop Art is: Popular (designed for a mass audience), Transient (short-term solution), Expendable (easily forgotten), Low cost, Mass produced, Young (aimed at youth), Witty, Sexy, Gimmicky, Glamorous, and Big business. Pop art glorifies the art of the everyday – elevating the ephemera of popular meaning. Although Picasso was gluing scraps of wallpaper and textiles, newspaper cuttings and other domestic detritus to his paintings as long ago as 1912 and Marcel Duchamp put a urinal in a gallery in 1917 and called it Fine Art, Pop Art – the naughty grandchild of Dada - is seen primarily as a post – 2<sup>nd</sup> World War art movement.

Pop Art emerged in 1950s Britain and flourished in America in the 1960s in a climate of turbulence, experimentation, and increased consumerism. Young artists felt that what they were taught at art school and what they saw in museums did not have anything to do with their lives or the things they saw around them every day. Instead they began to look for inspiration in their immediate environment, and referenced or re-purposed this material with a sense of irony and wit. They made art that mirrored, critiqued, and, at times, incorporated everyday items, consumer goods, and mass media messaging and [imagery](#).

Pop Art is still alive and kicking hard, and other countries and cultures have contributed to the Pop Art movement so these developments and the relevance of Pop Art today will be explored. Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi [Roy Lichtenstein](#), [Andy Warhol](#), Keith Haring, Takashi Murakami and Yayoi Kusama will be discussed amongst others.

#### **MESSAGE TO PAINTERS**

**I was recently invited to have my own exhibition at the Reel cinema in Borehamwood. It is now up and running. I hope members will go and see it. It is open until the 16th. March.**

**This space is open to anyone who wants to exhibit and the best thing is it's free to do so. No hanging fees or commission to pay. All you have to do is get in touch with Dan on [07957715697](tel:07957715697) and he will organise it for you.**

**I was also fortunate to have one of my paintings featured on the front cover of the last issue of the Round Radlett magazine. This is also an opportunity open to everyone. Just get in touch with the council office in Aldenham Avenue and talk to them as long as it's a picture relevant to Radlett.**

**Inga Armstrong**

**Thursday –June 25<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8.0 pm at the Radlett Reform Synagogue**

**118 Watling Street, Radlett WD7 7AA**

**Zoom transmission also available**

**Speaker: Jo Walton** is talking on **The Life and Times of John Craxton**

This lecture sees the return of Jo Walton to talk to us about **'The Life, Art & Times**

**of John Craxton**. An exploration of the life and work of this highly individual (and lesser known) painter, whose paintings and theatre designs combined modernity with the great British landscape tradition.

Born in 1922, John Craxton discovered the visionary works of 19<sup>th</sup> century artists William Blake and Samuel Palmer while in his teens and their poetic imagining of Britain and her landscape fired his own creativity. As a

young artist he shared studio space

with Lucien Freud and was mentored by artists such as Graham Sutherland, before living and working in Greece and creating a personal, colourful and poetic artistic world. It is always good to learn something new about a visionary artist



**John Craxton Landscape Malevesi Crete 1952**

**WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT   Live Model 23rd February 1.30 - 3.30pm**

**Members of Radlett Art Society are very welcome to join the Workshop at the Radlett Institute for this event**

**We have a gentleman with 'wonderfully craggy face' coming to sit for us.**

**This has been organised by our Chairman, Adam Lewis, and the model is a friend of his. Do come and join in the challenge and the fun.**

**(Or if portraiture isn't your thing, just come and do the sort of art you enjoy doing)**

**In other news, if you would like to join the workshop, there are vacancies. If you are interested contact Gill Cooper (or Anna Cross)**

## **PAST LECTURE     The 2nd Elizabethan Age by Frank Woodgate**

At the time Elizabeth came to the throne Modern Art was scarcely recognised in the UK; but things were about to change. The Festival of Britain of 1951 was to look at art and design with fresh eyes and Sir Norman Reid, the new director of the Tate, liked the avant-garde in the arts.

The Cold War was going on, Suez, the Hungarian Revolution, Korean War and at home, the Aldermaston Marches, and all were to spawn vital new art, albeit in some cases controversial. The Reclining Figure by Henry Moore depicts the disproportionately very small head looking upwards (anticipating the Bomb?). Similarly, Reg Butler's maquette, Monument to the Unknown Political Prisoner made a huge impact on public awareness, especially as 3500 sculptors from 57 countries had submitted entries.

Pop Art was in a lighter vein. Richard Hamilton and Peter Blake became well known for their work which was low cost and mass produced, as was Hockney with his great range of styles and notable for We Two Boys Together Clinging, a veiled reference to homosexuality, then illegal.

The next decade saw Land Art, part of the environmental movement, become prominent. Richard Long's A Line Made By Walking and Andy Goldsmith's Magic Land are two examples of many. The Turner Prize established in 1984 created another huge transition and attracted many artists in a variety of media - Gilbert and George, Tony Cragg, Rachel Whiteread, Damian Hurst, Tracy Emin, Grayson Perry and Anthony Gormley to name a few.

Of significant importance is the Black Art Movement.

Lubiana Hamid was one of the first of many artists to be involved. Her work was expressed in the technique of cutouts: Naming the Money is an example - a large life size installation of cutouts of slaves playing musical instruments. Different approaches came from Christopher Ufili's No Woman, No Cry which refers to Doreen Lawrence, while Mona Harouni's work concentrates on a displaced persons theme.

Trafalgar Square, Fourth Plinth. As a Millennium project, and amid much public outcry, Mark Wallinger's Ecco Homo was selected. However, this statue did not last long and is now placed on the steps of St. Paul's. Frank Woodgate concluded his lecture comparing three portraits of Queen Elizabeth II from the huge number which proliferate: Annigoni showing her as regal and distant, Freud's minute, controversial and ugly rendering and Michael Leonard's informal painting with corgi. We shall have to see what the Coronation brings.

**Anne Venediger**

## MUSEUM UPDATE

A trip.....down memory lane! The joint venture by the Art Society and Radlett Museum over the Summer Exhibition weekend of 9/10/11th June has got off to a flying start with lots of newspaper articles and original newsletters found amongst the Society's archive. A special display is being created at the museum to highlight art and artists in Radlett through the ages! The museum will be open during the Summer Exhibition weekend so visitors can view both at the same time.

However we need more photographs! If any of you have photos of past Art Society Exhibitions, Society day trips or holidays it would be lovely to add them to the display. I promise to take care of them; we will scan them and return the originals to you. If you can list the names of anyone featured in the photos as well as the location that would be great. I'm happy to pick photos up from you or you can give them to me at the Village Institute on Thursday afternoons as I am there most weeks. Ideally we need the photos by the end of February as we need to scan them and format the display which takes many weeks. Thank you in anticipation.

Footnote: For those of you who are fans of the freeview channel Talking Pictures TV (based locally in Kings Langley) I have sent them an old reel of cine film which was found in the archive and was taken by Tom Coubro. If they are able to view the film hopefully there will be something of interest that they will transmit on their channel. If so I will let you all know so you can tune in! Watch this space (and also TPTV as it's a great channel). Cherrie Chester (01923859603) radlettcherrie@hotmail.co.uk

## Day Trips 2023

We have various initiatives in hand for day trips this year.

As you are already aware, plans are well advanced for a visit to the Colour Revolution Exhibition at The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford (plus a bit of time in Oxford) on the 8th October. There is another trip being researched which would be in Hertfordshire.

Additionally 2 other exciting art trips are being investigated. One to the Dulwich Gallery for a tour of the Berthe Morisot exhibition as well as the general collection.

This is in addition to the zoom lecture in October 19<sup>th</sup> by Claire Wille. This trip will be by coach. We would also like to know if you would be interested in a walking tour of London's famous architecture and art with the excellent guide, Ian Swankie, who is well known to RAS members. Ian also suggested a tour of the Regeneration of Kings Cross just a step away from our own Thameslink station, a gentle amble around the area with plenty of opportunities for coffee or a light lunch before coming home.

More news when it is available.